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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Contents

		Page
	Special political missions and abbreviations	2
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Overview of resource requirements for 2016-2017	6
III.	General observations and recommendations	15
IV.	Conclusion	19

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Special political missions and abbreviations[1]

Thematic cluster I
Special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)

United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Thematic cluster II
Sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea

Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Panel of Experts on the Sudan

Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Panel of Experts on Libya

Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic

Panel of Experts on Yemen

Panel of Experts on South Sudan

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team; and Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009)

Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)

Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

[1] For those special political missions not included in the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365), see paragraphs 3 and 6 below.

Thematic cluster III
United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

Other abbreviations

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Special political missions not included in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365)[1]

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi

United Nations Mission in Colombia

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism

[1] These special political missions are reflected in documents A/71/365/Add.6, A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1 and A/71/365/Add.8.

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the main report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 7 December 2016.

2. The estimated resource requirements presented by the Secretary-General for 31 special political missions for 2017 amount to $577,708,000 net ($614,752,600 gross), including a provision of $741,400 relating to the share of those missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the period 2016-2017 for the services that the Centre provides to those missions (see para. 13 below). The Advisory Committee points out that the estimated resource requirements will be adjusted downward to reflect the fact that the budget proposal for the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar will not be considered by the General Assembly (see para. 6 (e) below). In section III of his report, the Secretary-General outlines the action requested of the General Assembly in connection with financing the 31 special political missions in 2017. The Committee's comments and recommendations herein cover those 31 and do not relate to the additional reports covering special political missions (A/71/365/Add.6, A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1 and A/71/365/Add.8). To provide a more complete picture of the overall estimated resource requirements for all special political missions in 2017, the Committee was provided with table 1 below, which shows that they are now estimated at $671.8 million, representing growth of $97.6 million, or 17 per cent, compared with 2016.

Table 1

Summary of estimated requirements for 2017 (by cluster)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Document		*Total requirements for 2017*[a] *(1)*	*Appropriation 2016 (2)*	*Variance amount (3)=(1)-(2)*	*Variance percentage (4)=(3)÷(2)*
Add.1	Cluster I	34 385.9[b]	26 925.9	7 460.0	27.7
Add.2	Cluster II	34 881.6	33 657.1	1 224.5	3.6
Add.3	Cluster III	220 100.2	191 471.3	28 628.9	15.0
Add.4	UNAMA	170 166.9	183 244.3	(13 077.4)	(7.1)
Add.5	UNAMI	117 432.0	119 543.8	(2 111.8)	(1.8)
Subtotal (net)[c]		**576 966.6**	**554 842.4**	**22 124.2**	**4.0**
Add.6	Cluster I: Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi	27 414.4	14 493.8	12 920.6	89
Add.7 and Corr.1	Cluster III: United Nations Mission in Colombia	64 167.3	–[d]	64 167.3	…
Add.8	OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism	3 278.8	4 921.1	(1 642.3)	(33)
Total (net)[c]		**671 827.1**	**574 257.3**	**97 569.8**	**17.0**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Table 1)

[a] Does not include the missions that are discontinued in 2017: Panel of Experts on Liberia, Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire and Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[b] Resources include the proposed budget for the Special Adviser on Myanmar and will be adjusted (see para. 6 (e) below).

[c] Does not include the share of special political missions for the Regional Service Centre.

[d] The United Nations Mission in Colombia is funded through commitment authorities in 2016.

3. The main report of the Secretary-General provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 31 special political missions in 2017 and related cross-cutting issues, while five addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III (A/71/365/Add.1-3) and the two larger missions, UNAMA (A/71/365/Add.4) and UNAMI (A/71/365/Add.5). The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, (both under cluster I), the United Nations Mission in Colombia (under cluster III) and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism are presented in separate reports (A/71/365/Add.6-8).

4. In the present report, the Advisory Committee addresses issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions, while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA, UNAMI, the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, the Office of the Special Adviser for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism are presented in separate related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

Status of mission mandates

5. Paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General contains information on the status of the mandates of the 31 missions for which budgetary resources are requested for 2017, as follows:

(a) Ten missions have open-ended mandates;

(b) The mandate of one mission, the Special Adviser on Myanmar, was open-ended and under consideration by the General Assembly at the time of the report's presentation; however, according to the Secretary-General, it would no longer need to be considered by the Assembly (see para. 6 (e) below);

(c) Eighteen missions have mandates expiring in 2017 or later;

(d) Two missions have mandates expiring in 2016.

6. According to the Secretary-General (para. 3 of the report), the following four missions were terminated in 2016:

(a) Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was terminated as from 16 January 2016 by the Security Council in its resolution 2231 (2015), adopted on 20 July 2015;

(b) Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, which was terminated by the Security Council in its resolution 2283 (2016), adopted on 28 April 2016;

(c) Panel of Experts on Liberia, which was terminated by the Security Council in its resolution 2288 (2016), adopted on 25 May 2016;

(d) OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, which was terminated on 31 October 2016 in accordance with the letter from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2016/807). However, the Advisory Committee notes that, further to Security Council resolution 2319 (2016), adopted on 17 November 2016, by which the Council extended the mandate until 16 November 2017, the Secretary-General presented the proposed resource requirements for the Joint Investigative Mechanism in document A/71/365/Add.8;

(e) The Advisory Committee was informed by the Secretary-General on 7 December that the budget proposal for the Special Adviser on Myanmar would no longer need to be considered by the General Assembly. According to the Secretary-General, adjustments will be made to the proposed resource requirements for cluster I.

7. It is recalled that the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, through a letter dated 28 January 2016 (S/2016/89), to proceed with a merger of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel to create UNOWAS, with a view to maximizing synergies by ensuring a unified management and structure of UNOWAS. The related observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in its report A/71/595/Add.3.

II. Overview of resource requirements for 2016-2017

8. By its resolution 70/249 A, the General Assembly approved a provision of $1,124,400,000 under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 for financing special political missions during the biennium 2016-2017. A summary of the provision is contained in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General and shows the following:

(a) By its resolutions 70/248 A and B, the General Assembly approved a total charge of $575,874,900 for 37 missions in 2016 against the biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 for special political missions, meaning that the undistributed balance of the biennial provision amounts to $548,525,100;

(b) The total requirements relating to the financing of 31 special political missions in 2017 (clusters I to III, UNAMA, UNAMI and the missions' share in the budget of the Regional Service Centre) are estimated by the Secretary-General at $577,708,000 net, thus exceeding the undistributed balance of $548,525,100 in the biennial provision by $29,182,900;[3]

[3] The budget submissions of the Secretary-General for 2017 for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen ($15,487,300), the Office of the Special Adviser for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi ($11,927,100), the United Nations Mission in Colombia ($64,167,300) and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism ($3,278,800) are presented in separate reports (A/71/365/Add.6, A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1 and A/71/365/Add.8). The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in its reports A/71/595/Add.6-8.

(c) The Secretary-General indicates in his report (para. 129 (c)) that the General Assembly is requested to appropriate an additional amount of $29,369,400 (net of staff assessment) under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, after taking into account an overexpenditure of $186,500 projected in connection with financing the special political missions in 2016.

Budget performance for 2016

9. Section II.A of the report of the Secretary-General provides information on the budget performance for 2016 (para. 121 and tables 3 and 4). As stated in paragraph 121, the projected overexpenditure of $186,500 is mainly due to additional requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria and for UNSMIL. The Advisory Committee approved additional funds for both missions through a commitment authority. A summary of significant variances between the appropriation for 2016 and the projected expenditure for missions continuing into 2017 is contained in table 4 of the report.

10. Following an enquiry by the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat adjusted downward the projected expenditure for UNSMIL by $5.7 million, from $45.75 million to $40.05 million (see A/71/595/Add.3, para. 8). The Committee was informed that the main reason for the low rate of utilization of resources in UNSMIL was because the budget for 2016 had been based on plans to return the Mission to Tripoli, but security conditions had prevented that move, resulting in the actual expenditure being less than anticipated. Upon request, the Committee was provided with an updated version of table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, which is reproduced as table 2 below.

Table 2
Summary of budget performance (estimated) for 2016
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2016			
	Appropriation[a]	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance amount*	*Variance percentage*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)=(3)/(1)*
Cluster I	26 925.9	29 619.0	(2 693.1)	(10.0)
Cluster II	33 657.1	32 430.1	1 227.0	3.6
Cluster III	191 471.3	187 138.5	4 332.8	2.3
UNAMA	183 244.3	183 244.3	–	–
UNAMI	119 543.8	118 422.9	1 120.9	0.9
Subtotal (net)	**554 842.4**	**550 854.8**	**3 987.6**	**0.7**
Discontinued missions[b]	6 538.7	5 015.7	1 523.0	23.3
Total (net)	**561 381.1**	**555 870.5**	**5 510.6**	**1.0**

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Table 2)

[a] The appropriations for the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria and UNSMIL do not include the commitment authorities, the appropriation for which is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General.

[b] Missions that are discontinued in 2017 are the Panel of Experts on Liberia, the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, the Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (see para. 6).

[c] The above table does not reflect information for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, the Office of the Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, the reports for which are contained in documents A/71/365/Add.6, A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1 and A/71/365/Add.8.

11. The Advisory Committee points out that the reduction in the projected expenditure for 2016 would also cause a reduction in the proposed net requirements for 2017. Its comments and recommendations on the budget implementation in 2016 for individual missions are contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

12. The Advisory Committee observes that, in a number of missions, the rate of utilization of resources for the nine-month period that ended on 30 September 2016 was significantly lower than the planned average. For example, while the actual expenditure as at 30 September 2016 should have been about 75 per cent of the total budget for 2016, a number of missions, including UNOWAS and the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, showed a utilization rate of 61 per cent.

Proposed resource requirements for 2017

13. As indicated in paragraph 2 above, the estimated requirements for 31 special political missions for 2017 amount to $577,708,000 net, including a provision of $741,400 relating to the share of those missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre for the period 2016-2017 for the services that the Centre provides to the missions. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the budget for 2016-2017 for the Centre of $39.2 million was apportioned to the clients of the Centre on the basis of the size of their approved budgets and reflected the aforementioned provision of $741,400.

14. A summary of estimated requirements for 2017 and the variances by cluster is provided in table 5 and explained in paragraphs 123 to 126 of the report of the Secretary-General. Tables 8, 9 and 10 of the report contain information on the budget estimates by mission, requirements by expenditure component and the number and level of positions, respectively.

15. As shown in table 5 of the report, the total net increase of $22,124,200 in the estimated requirements for 2017, compared with the approved budget for 2016, reflects increases in requirements under cluster I ($7,460,000), cluster II ($1,224,500) and cluster III ($28,628,900), which are partially offset by decreases under UNAMA ($13,077,400) and UNAMI ($2,111,800). As indicated in paragraph 125 of the report, an overall increase of $28.6 million under cluster III reflects increases under UNSMIL ($29.1 million) and UNSOM ($2.6 million), which are

offset in part by decreases, mainly under UNIOGBIS ($1.9 million), the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission ($0.6 million) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa ($0.4 million).

16. In view of the adjustments to the projected expenditure for UNSMIL in 2016 (see para. 10 above), the Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with an updated version of tables 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretary-General showing adjusted net requirements for 2017 (see annexes I and II to the present report).

17. Section II.B of the report of the Secretary-General (paras. 122-128) deals with proposed resources for 2017 and provides a broader picture of resource requirements by mission, major category of expenditure and staffing proposal. **The Advisory Committee remains of the view that the report of the Secretary-General should have provided detailed information on major budgetary assumptions used in the preparation of cost estimates, including budgeted, actual and projected vacancy rates, a list of vacancies that have existed for two years or longer (see A/69/628, para. 18) and a detailed explanation of variances in standard ratios for vehicles and information technology equipment (see A/70/7/Add.10, paras. 22-28). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include this information in future budget submissions for special political missions.**

18. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the budget implementation in 2017 for individual missions are contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

Staffing requirements for 2017

19. Information on the proposed civilian staffing requirements for 2017 by cluster, category and level for each mission is provided in paragraph 128 and tables 7 and 10 of and annex V to the report of the Secretary-General. As indicated therein, the Secretary-General proposes that the number of civilian personnel be increased from 3,618 to 3,709 positions, reflecting an overall increase of 91 positions. The changes in civilian positions proposed for 2017 reflect the establishment of 119 additional positions for UNSMIL, 52 net additional positions for the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria, 18 additional positions for UNSOM, 2 additional positions for the Office of the Special Adviser for Cyprus, 1 additional position for the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, 1 additional position for UNIOGBIS and 1 additional position for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in addition to a net reduction of 57 positions for UNAMA and 15 positions for UNAMI. Moreover, the Secretary-General indicated in table 7 of his report that the discontinuation of four missions during 2016 entailed a reduction of 31 positions. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the proposed staffing requirements for individual missions are contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

20. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed staffing requirements reflected in his report do not include requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, the Office of the Special Adviser for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism. The Advisory Committee notes that

these requirements are included in separate reports (A/71/365/Add.6, A/71/365/Add.7 and Corr.1 and A/71/365/Add.8).

Vacancy rates and vacant positions

21. The Advisory Committee notes that the main report of the Secretary-General provides no specific information on the budgeted vacancy rates for 2016, the actual average vacancy rates for the period from 1 January to 31 August 2016 and the proposed vacancy rates for 2017 for special political missions. The Committee recalls its view that more comprehensive information should be provided on vacancy rates in the reports of the Secretary-General (see A/69/628, para. 33). Upon request, the Committee received information relating to the actual vacancy rates as at 30 September 2016, the projected average vacancy rates for 2016 and the proposed vacancy rates for 2017 for the special political missions. Its comments and recommendations on vacancy rates for individual missions are contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-8).

22. The Advisory Committee recalls its view that, in his future budget proposals, the Secretary-General should provide information on vacancies, if any, that have existed in the special political missions for two years or longer (see A/68/7/Add.10, para. 23). No such information was included in the report of the Secretary-General. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, as at 30 September 2016, seven positions had been vacant for two years or longer in the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria. **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts were filled expeditiously (resolution 66/264, para. 21). The Committee reiterates the view that, as a matter of overall policy, the continuing requirement for posts that have been vacant for two years or longer should be reviewed and justifications provided for their retention. Otherwise, they should be proposed for abolishment (see A/68/7, para. 107).**

Methodology for calculating staff costs

23. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its review of the proposed resource requirements for special political missions for the biennium 2014-2015, it had recommended that the methodologies applied for the calculation of staff costs of such missions should be improved (see A/69/628, para. 20). In paragraphs 105 to 109 of his report, the Secretary-General addresses the Committee's recommendation and indicates that, in determining the standard international staff position salaries for 2017 for each such mission, the following factors were utilized:

(a) Latest effective salary scales of 1 January 2016;

(b) Average step for each grade level based on the actual step of incumbents as at 30 June 2016;

(c) Ratio of staff members without dependants and staff members with dependants based on the actual incumbency data as at 30 June 2016;

(d) Post adjustment multiplier for July 2016.

24. The Advisory Committee was not provided with information explaining why the Secretariat had utilized salary scales for international staff of 1 January 2016,

rather than the updated salary scales of 1 January 2017, in determining the standard international staff costing for 2017. **The Advisory Committee trusts that this clarification will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

25. As indicated in paragraph 108 of the report, the percentage of common staff costs to net salaries was determined on the basis of the actual expenditure of common staff costs to net salaries (including post adjustment) for the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016. An adjustment was made to the calculation of standard common staff cost percentage using the actual expenditure for the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2016, based on the programme budget implications for special political missions of the application of the unified salary scales approved in General Assembly resolution 70/244.

26. The estimates of national staff costs are based on the actual grade level and step for salaries and historical expenditure for common staff costs at a particular duty station (see para. 109 of the report).

Operational costs[4]

27. The observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on proposed requirements for operational costs for 2017 are provided in its reports on individual missions. The paragraphs below provide examples that helped the Committee to form its views and recommendations on operational costs.

Consultants

28. The estimated requirements of $4,083,100 for consultants in 2017 reflect a decrease of $216,600 compared with the approved provision for 2016. The report of the Secretary-General contains no breakdown of the estimated requirements for consultants by mission, nor does it provide an explanation for significant variances between the approved resources for consultants in 2016 and the proposed requirements for 2017. The Advisory Committee has noticed that some missions propose engaging consultants for projects that appear to pertain to their day-to-day activities. For example, the use of consultant services is proposed by UNSMIL in connection with supporting the Constitution Drafting Assembly with an outreach and communications strategy, even though the Political and Constitutional Affairs Division of UNSMIL, with its proposed staffing of 20 international staff positions, should be in a position to undertake this project. The Committee's comments on proposed consultancy services for UNSMIL are contained in paragraph 50 of its report A/71/595/Add.3.

29. **While the Advisory Committee recognizes the efforts made to gradually reduce the reliance on consultants and the resulting reduction in resource requirements for 2017, the Committee reiterates its view that reliance on the use of external consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that the Organization should build and use its in-house capacity to perform core activities or to fulfil functions that are recurrent over the long term (A/70/7, para. 116).**

[4] The following paragraphs on operational costs reflect requirements for the 31 special political missions covered in the main report of the Secretary-General.

Official travel

30. The estimated requirements of $16,273,900 for official travel in 2017 reflect a net decrease of $35,900, or 0.2 per cent, compared with the approved provision for 2016. The report of the Secretary-General provides no breakdown by mission of those total estimated requirements, nor does it contain an explanation for the significant variances between the approved resources for official travel in 2016 and the proposed requirements for 2017. **The Advisory Committee expects that such information will be included in future reports of the Secretary-General on financing special political missions. Moreover, given the ever-expanding and improved means of communication, such as videoconferencing, e-mail and other means offered by available technology, the Committee would have expected to see larger reductions in resource requirements for official travel. The Committee also expects that, with the implementation of Umoja, comparative information relating to trips planned and actually taken during a given year will be made available in the context of the proposed resource estimates for special political missions.**

31. The Advisory Committee recalls that it had requested that information on the compliance rates of special political missions with the policy of 16-day advance booking of tickets should be provided in the context of the budget report for 2017 (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 37). Annex VII to the report of the Secretary-General includes such information. The Committee notes that, with rare exception, the compliance rates have decreased from an already low level. For example, while for the first quarter of 2015 the compliance rate for the Special Adviser on Myanmar was 25 per cent, it fell to 0 per cent from the second quarter. The compliance rate for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate fell from 58.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2015 to 13.0 per cent in the second quarter of 2016.

32. **While recognizing that, for some missions, the nature of the work involved and the related travel requirements can vary, as can the predictability of certain types of trips, the Advisory Committee is nevertheless dissatisfied with the rates of compliance with the 16-day advance booking policy and finds it unsatisfactory that in some missions the compliance rate in 2016 was even lower than in 2015. The Committee expects that the reasons for the low compliance rates will be analysed, lessons learned and the necessary measures taken to ensure compliance with and fulfilment of the 70 per cent target. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his future budget submission an explanation for all instances of low compliance on the part of special political missions with the policy of 16-day advance booking of tickets.**

Ratios for vehicles and information technology equipment

33. Information on the ratios for vehicles and information technology equipment for nine missions is provided in paragraphs 110 to 112 of the report of the Secretary-General. As stated therein, the Department of Field Support has reviewed the vehicle and information technology equipment holdings in special political missions and aligned such holdings, where possible, with the standard ratios that it has established in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual. In that context, the holdings of vehicles and information technology equipment have been estimated on the basis

of the proposed personnel incumbency levels planned for 2017, rather than on the full authorized level of personnel. The Advisory Committee points out in this connection that, for four missions (Office of the Special Envoy for Syria, UNIOGBIS, UNSMIL and UNAMI), the proposed vehicle ratios for 2017 exceed the standard allocation.

34. As indicated in paragraph 111 of the report, the vehicle holdings higher than the standard allocation are due to the following:

(a) For the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria and UNAMI, the security conditions on the ground;

(b) For UNIOGBIS, the regional offices requiring the assignment of two vehicles per regional office for safety and operational requirements;

(c) For UNSMIL, the gradual establishment of its presence in Libya and the security situation on the ground.

35. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in reviewing the budget proposals for special political missions for 2016, it noted anomalies in the vehicle holdings by those missions located at family duty stations, for which neither the standard ratios established in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual for peacekeeping operations, nor the policy on the provision and use of official cars for all established United Nations offices, are applicable. The Committee pointed out that a coherent policy was required for special political missions at family duty stations (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 24). The report of the Secretary-General does not contain information on such a policy. Moreover, the Committee was not provided with a comprehensive overview of vehicle holdings and entitlements. **The Advisory Committee trusts that, in his next budget submission for special political missions, the Secretary-General will provide detailed information on the issue, as required. The Committee also stresses the importance of adhering to the standard ratios (see para. 39 below).**

36. The proposed allocation of computing devices for 2017 is provided in table 2 of the report and shows that, compared with the standard allocation of 3,530 computing devices, the combined number for the standard allocation and spares is 3,950, while the total number of proposed holdings for 2017 is 4,160 (5 per cent higher than the standard allocation and spares). As indicated in paragraph 112 of the report, the missions with the higher-than-standard holdings (UNOWAS, UNIOGBIS, UNSOM, United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, UNSMIL and UNAMI) require computing devices for, among other purposes, training facilities, Internet cafes, information technology maintenance services, CarLog systems for vehicles and fieldwork.

37. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with an explanation as to why the allocation of computing devices and spares proposed for UNSOM for 2017 was 30 per cent higher than the standard allocation. It was indicated that 300 devices would be allocated to 300 proposed civilian staff positions (283 positions reflected in the staffing table and 17 general temporary assistance positions), 22 government-provided personnel, 14 United Nations police officers and 40 contractors. The remaining 105 additional devices would be allocated to the Training Unit (15), the Internet cafe (15), the Guard Unit cafe (20), high-frequency data transmission

systems and the CarLog system (10), telephone billing (5) and spare equipment (40). Table 2 of the report of the Secretary-General shows 231 positions for UNSOM personnel, when adjusted for the vacancy rate.

38. **The Advisory Committee recalls its observation that variances from the standard ratios should be properly justified in all budget proposals; moreover, considering the number of spare items of information technology equipment held by missions, the Committee recommended that purchases of equipment should take into account spares already held by the missions concerned. The Committee also points out that the acquisition of vehicles and equipment for special political missions should take into account the actual vacancy rates, operational needs of the mission and security conditions on the ground. The Committee recalls that, in reviewing the budget proposals for special political missions for 2016, it pointed out that any policy guidance with regard to the standard ratios to be developed in that regard for peacekeeping operations should also apply to special political missions (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 28). The Committee expects that the Secretary-General, in his next budget submission for special political missions, will provide detailed information on the use of policy guidance developed for peacekeeping operations.**

Air operations

39. The resources proposed for air operations for 2017 amount to $42,941,400, compared with the approved budget of $44,709,700 for 2016. Detailed information on the proposed resource requirements for 2017 is contained in annex IV to the report, which was provided in response to the request of the Advisory Committee that the presentation of information on air operations, including flight hours and costs under previous and current contracts, should be improved (see A/69/628, para. 33).

40. As shown in annex IV to the report, the decrease of $1,768,300 in the proposed resource requirements for air operations, from $44,709,700 for 2016 to $42,941,400 for 2017, reflects a reduction in flying hours from some 8,100 hours (5,100 for fixed-wing aircraft and 3,000 for rotary-wing aircraft) for 2016 to some 6,400 hours (5,000 and 1,400, respectively) for 2017 (a reduction of 21 per cent). Nevertheless, the proposed resource requirements for air operations in 2017 reflect a reduction of only 4 per cent compared with the approved resource level for 2016.

41. While the Advisory Committee understands that a reduction in flight hours may not result in a corresponding decrease in the overall cost of air transportation, it requested clarification as to the insufficient reduction in the proposed resource requirements for air operations. The Committee was informed that a major change in the air transportation requirements for 2017 was at UNSMIL, where the operational needs required a change from a turboprop aircraft to a jet aircraft (a more expensive type) and an increase of 60 per cent in the number of flight hours. According to the Secretariat, increases in ancillary costs such as landing fees, ground handling and other support costs for all special political missions have increased by $2 million for 2017 as a result of increases in market prices. The Committee was also provided with updated information on the distribution of air operation resources (see annex III).

42. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its expectation that the Secretary-General will continue to review the resource requirements for air operations for the special political missions and report thereon in future budget proposals (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 30).**

Nationalization of positions

43. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 103 of his report that, in line with the request by the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/276 and 66/264 for greater utilization of national staff, the missions are advised to review functions performed by international staff and propose conversion to the National Professional Officer and Local level categories commensurate with the requirements of the mission and its mandate. As indicated in paragraph 104, UNAMI is proposing the reclassification, in 2017, of one position of Travel Assistant (Field Service) to Travel Assistant (Local level) in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Mission Support, in Baghdad. **While recognizing that circumstances relating to security or other factors may limit the possibility of nationalizing some positions, the Advisory Committee is nevertheless dissatisfied with the lack of progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 61/276 and 66/264. The Committee calls upon the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the resolutions are properly acted upon.**

III. General observations and recommendations

Format and presentation

44. The Secretary-General indicates that efforts continue to be made to adapt and follow as closely as is practical the format and presentation of budgets for peacekeeping operation in presenting the budgets for special political missions and that a new layout of the performance measures of the indicators of achievement has been implemented, to the extent possible, in the result-based budgeting framework for such missions. The proposed budgets for the special political missions for 2017 therefore reflect this new presentation format for those indicators of achievement that have only numerical performance measures, while for indicators of achievement that have performance measures that are qualitative and formulated in text form, the presentation format is the same as in the proposed budget reports for 2016 (see paras. 19-20 of the report).

45. The Advisory Committee points out, nevertheless, that the presentation of indicators of achievement for some missions needs further refinement. For example, one of the indicators of achievement for the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria includes increased engagement of the representatives of the Government and the whole spectrum of Syrian opposition groups. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the whole spectrum did not include those groups listed by the Security Council as terrorist organizations. In UNAMI, the Mission includes as indicators of achievement "Number of laws adopted by the Council of Representatives to implement key provisions of the Constitution" and "Adoption of the required number of laws and regulatory framework to conduct elections". In UNAMA, one of the indicators of achievement is "Improved respect for international human rights and humanitarian laws to ensure the protection of civilian in armed conflict". These

activities appear to fall under the responsibility of State authorities. In the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, the mission included among expected accomplishments "Consolidation of peace and stability within the Sudan and South Sudan". The Committee expects that the mission will refine further the wording of the expected accomplishment to better reflect its mandate. In UNSMIL, the Mission states as expected accomplishments "Adoption of a constitution that meets minimum international standards". **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that some expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement can be improved to better reflect what could realistically be achieved by the respective missions and the activities for which the mission could be held accountable during the relevant performance period (see A/69/628, para. 35, and A/70/7/Add.10, para. 47).**

46. The Advisory Committee notes the continued efforts made to improve the format and presentation of the proposed budget estimates in respect of special political missions for 2017 in response to its previous comments and recommendations (A/70/7/Add.10, para. 46). **The Advisory Committee is, nonetheless, of the view that the presentation of the information, including that contained in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General, should be further improved by: (a) indicating appropriations in various tables of the report that would match the amounts approved by the General Assembly and explaining the variances, as appropriate, in the footnotes to the tables; (b) providing comprehensive information on vacancy rates (see also para. 21 above); (c) reflecting in the tables, as appropriate, the variance between the appropriation and expenditure as the result of the subtraction of the appropriation from the estimated expenditure, rather than vice versa; (d) deleting the fourth column of tables 8 and 9 of the report as redundant; and (e) providing the most recent actual data on budget implementation. The Committee is of the view that a more focused and analytical approach to the presentation of information in the report of the Secretary-General is needed to provide a broader picture of management challenges, propose solutions to administrative and management issues, improve the presentation of the results-based budgeting frameworks and outline the major budgetary assumptions.**

47. The Advisory Committee notes that annex VIII to the report provides information on support provided free of charge by the host country to special political missions. The Committee points out, however, that this information does not contain the estimated value of such support. Upon request, the Committee was provided with the annual estimate of contributions from host countries (see annex IV to the present report). The Committee is of the view that budget submissions for special political missions should also indicate in-kind contributions by the Government and other United Nations entities. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, for example, airport fees for embarkation/disembarkation at all airports in Iraq and Kuwait were waived for UNAMI. **The Committee trusts that detailed information on in-kind contributions from host countries will be included in future budget submissions for the special political missions. As regards services and assets, the Committee trusts that relevant information provided by other United Nations entities will be included in future budget submissions and performance reports for special political missions and that the**

corresponding information, including on any related income, will be included in the reports of the entities providing such services or assets.

Operational environment

48. As indicated in paragraph 37 of the report of the Secretary-General, the operational environment for special political missions in 2016 continued to increase in complexity. According to the Secretary-General, one of the most significant characteristics of the missions today is the diversity in mission functions and structures, ranging from small offices of special envoys carrying out a good offices mandate and regional offices with a preventive function to monitoring teams, groups and panels overseeing Security Council sanctions regimes, field-based missions carrying out specialized mandates such as electoral observation and complex, multidimensional operations with comprehensive mandates to support fragile transitions and sustain peace.

49. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with an update to the information contained in paragraph 38 of the report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Accordingly, as at mid-October 2016, 91 per cent of the recommendations were under way or had been finalized, while 9 per cent remained to be initiated.

Backstopping support to special political missions at Headquarters

50. Paragraph 46 of the report of the Secretary-General contains details of backstopping support to all special political missions at Headquarters, reflecting that the Department of Political Affairs provides substantive backstopping for 32 missions and administrative support for 13 missions, while the Department of Field Support provides logistical, technological and administrative support for 17 missions based in the field. Backstopping support to two missions — the Office of the Special Adviser for Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, and the Panel of Experts on Yemen — is jointly administered by both departments. While the Department of Management provides administrative services covering procurement, financial management and human resources functions in support of all special political missions, the missions also rely on Headquarters support in thematic and operational areas such as military and police planning force generation, rule of law and security institutions, constitution-making, electoral assistance, mediation and good offices.

51. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the information on backstopping support to special political missions at Headquarters is presented in a fragmented manner and lacks sufficient detail on the number of staff providing such support, staff distribution by offices and functions and the indication of non-staff resources relating to such support. The Committee trusts that consolidated information on backstopping support to special political missions at Headquarters will be included in the main report of the Secretary-General on special political missions.**

Kuwait Joint Support Office

52. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 91 of his report that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/259, noted his intention to establish a support office in Kuwait for UNAMA and requested him to explore possibilities for sharing the costs between UNAMA and UNAMI. He indicates that, with that incentive, the Kuwait Joint Support Office has since expanded to support the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the offices of the special envoys for Yemen and Syria.

53. As stated in the report, each United Nations field mission currently manages its own payroll function for national staff and individual uniformed officers. The Secretary-General states that, with the implementation of Umoja Extension 1 for national staff and uniformed personnel in field missions in November 2016 (known as cluster 5), the rigour and interdependencies that will be introduced may make it difficult for individual field missions and other United Nations offices to sustain payroll functions. This is why, according to the Secretary-General, the Department of Field Support moved payroll processing into two centres on 1 November 2016: payroll for national staff and individual uniformed personnel in missions based in Africa (other than the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, which has been mandated to close in June 2017) is processed by the Regional Service Centre, while payroll for national staff and individual uniformed personnel in all other missions (except for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Mission in Colombia) is processed by the Kuwait Joint Support Office (see paras. 93-94 and 99 of the report).

54. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 101 of his report that the centralization of payroll services in this way would require a redistribution of mission finance positions in several missions from 1 January 2017 and that the current staffing complement of the Kuwait Joint Support Office and the Regional Service Centre would be augmented with positions from peacekeeping and regular budget missions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the centralization of payroll services at the Office was intended to be an interim arrangement to support the implementation of Umoja pending further consideration by the General Assembly in the context of the global service delivery model for the Secretariat.

55. **While the Advisory Committee does not object to an interim arrangement to support the implementation of Umoja, it recalls that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/248, any changes to the existing and future service delivery model must be approved by the Assembly.** The Advisory Committee also recalls that it recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to include, in his next report containing a detailed proposal for the global service delivery model, a fully developed concept for the expansion of shared services to the field, including a business case and comprehensive baseline information, for consideration by the General Assembly, taking into account the comments and observations contained in its report (A/71/666). **The Advisory Committee trusts that this proposal will also respond to its previous request, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/247 A, to provide the full costs and benefits analysis, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Kuwait Joint Support Office (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 58, and A/69/628, para. 56).**

Expert panels for recruitment

56. The Secretary-General provides in paragraph 119 of his report information on the expert panels for recruitment to special political missions that will be convened in 2017 to assess and recommend candidates who have applied to generic job openings for positions in field missions in order to reduce the administrative burden on individual hiring managers and enhance the quality and integrity of the recruitment process by centralizing the assessment. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Department of Field Support had included a requirement of $300,000 for the funding of the expert panel to be absorbed by the special political missions in 2017. This amount corresponds to some 20 per cent of the overall funding of $1.6 million required for the convening of expert panels, with the remainder being apportioned among peacekeeping operations. According to the Secretariat, the Secretary-General erroneously indicated in paragraph 119 of his report that the share of funding was apportioned based on the approved budget size of the respective missions given that, in fact, the apportionment was based on the number of authorized international staff positions for 2016. The apportionment of the overall amount of $300,000 among individual special political missions based on the number of authorized international staff positions for 2016 is reflected in annex V to the present report.

57. The Advisory Committee recalls its observation that full information should be provided in future overview reports on peacekeeping operations concerning the work of expert panels, including the number of panels, the details of the trips to be undertaken and workload statistics such as the number of individuals assessed and selected for the different rosters (see A/69/839, para. 64). The Committee was of the view that similar information on the expert panels for recruitment to special political missions should be provided in the budget proposal for 2017 (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 38). **Given that no such information was included in the budget proposal for 2017, the Committee requests that it be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.**

IV. Conclusion

58. The budgetary proposals of the Secretary-General for the 31 special political missions for 2017, which require action to be taken by the General Assembly, are set out in paragraph 129 of his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365).

59. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, together with the comments and recommendations contained in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1-5), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal of the Secretary-General for the resource requirements for 2017 for the 31 special political missions.**

Annex I

Overview of financial resources of special political missions

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		1 January to 31 December 2016			Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
		Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2016–2017)	Net requirements for 2017
		(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(6)
	Thematic cluster I: Special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General								
1.	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	1 127.2	1 115.0	12.2	1 127.2	1 137.8	–	10.6	1 125.6
2.	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	2 564.6	2 701.1	(136.5)	2 564.6	2 810.5	15.0	245.9	2 947.0
3.	Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	2 183.7	2 174.0	9.7	2 183.7	2 201.0	–	17.3	2 191.3
4.	Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	549.5	537.9	11.6	549.5	545.3	–	(4.2)	533.7
5.	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	624.9	419.9	205.0	624.9	489.2	–	(135.7)	284.2
6.	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	1 937.7	1 937.7	–	1 937.7	1 976.0	–	38.3	1 976.0
7.	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	12 124.3	14 900.5	(2 776.2)	12 124.3	19 506.3	80.6	7 382.0	22 282.5
8.	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan	1 412.7	1 450.2	(37.5)	1 412.7	1 387.3	–	(25.4)	1 424.8
9.	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	4 401.3	4 382.7	18.6	4 401.3	4 332.5	26.5	(68.8)	4 313.9
	Subtotal, cluster I	**26 925.9**	**29 619.0**	**(2 693.1)**	**26 925.9**	**34 385.9**	**122.1**	**7 460.0**	**37 079.0**
	Thematic cluster II: Sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels								
10.	Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	2 265.7	2 230.6	35.1	2 265.7	2 247.2	–	(18.5)	2 212.1

		1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January–31 December 2017			
		Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2016–2017)	Net requirements for 2017
		(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)–(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)–(4)	(8)=(5)–(6)
11.	Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 270.2	1 238.0	32.2	1 270.2	1 231.3		(38.9)	1 199.1
12.	Panel of Experts on the Sudan	1 080.1	866.5	213.6	1 080.1	1 101.6		21.5	888.0
13.	Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2 599.7	2 514.5	85.2	2 599.7	2 524.4		(75.3)	2 439.2
14.	Panel of Experts on Libya	1 359.9	1 271.5	88.4	1 359.9	1 327.4	–	(32.5)	1 239.0
15.	Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic	1 172.0	1 147.0	25.0	1 172.0	1 172.0			1 147.0
16.	Panel of Experts on Yemen	3 017.3	2 971.4	45.9	3 017.3	2 685.4	–	(331.9)	2 639.5
17.	Panel of Experts on South Sudan	1 428.4	1 198.3	230.1	1 428.4	1 319.3		(109.1)	1 089.2
18.	Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team	6 305.8	5 920.0	385.8	6 305.8	6 729.3		423.5	6 343.5
19.	Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)	1 291.2	1 035.2	256.0	1 291.2	2 136.8		845.6	1 880.8
20.	Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)	3 143.1	3 128.1	15.0	3 143.1	2 875.7		(267.4)	2 860.7
21.	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	8 723.7	8 909.0	(185.3)	8 723.7	9 531.2	1.2	807.5	9 716.5
	Subtotal, cluster II	**33 657.1**	**32 430.1**	**1 227.0**	**33 657.1**	**34 881.6**	**1.2**	**1 224.5**	**33 654.6**
	Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions								
22.	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel[5]	13 330.2	13 055.3	274.9	13 330.2	13 283.3	20.7	(36.9)	13 008.4
23.	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	19 919.9	18 217.3	1 702.6	19 919.9	18 033.3	144.8	(1 886.6)	16 330.7
24.	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	93 486.6	92 711.0	775.6	93 486.6	96 094.5	2 827.3	2 607.9	95 318.9
25.	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	3 022.7	2 913.0	109.7	3 022.7	3 075.1	78.0	52.4	2 965.4
26.	United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	4 958.2	4 750.9	207.3	4 958.2	4 385.1	14.4	(573.1)	4 177.8

		1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2017			
		Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Appropriation 2016*	*Total requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Variance (2016-2017)*	*Net requirements for 2017*
		(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(6)
27	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	8 466.7	8 421.3	45.4	8 466.7	8 217.5	85.4	(249.2)	8 172.1
28	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	7 105.5	7 016.8	88.7	7 105.5	6 686.9	30.4	(418.6)	6 598.2
29	United Nations Support Mission in Libya	41 181.5	40 052.9	1 128.6	41 181.5	70 324.5	5 031.7	29 143.0	69 195.9
	Subtotal, cluster III	**191 471.3**	**187 138.5**	**4 332.8**	**191 471.3**	**220 100.2**	**8 232.7**	**28 628.9**	**215 767.4**
30	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	183 244.3	183 244.3	–	183 244.3	170 166.9	2 031.5	(13 077.4)	170 166.9
31	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	119 543.8	118 322.9	1 120.9	119 543.8	117 432.0	–	(2 111.8)	116 311.1
	Subtotal, United Nations Assistance Missions in Afghanistan and for Iraq	**302 788.1**	**301 667.2**	**1 120.9**	**302 788.1**	**287 598.9**	**2 031.5**	**(15 189.2)**	**286 478.0**
	Total	**554 842.4**	**550 854.8**	**3 987.6**	**554 842.4**	**576 966.6**	**10 387.5**	**22 124.2**	**572 979.0**
	Discontinued missions								
	Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	1 154.8	433.7	721.1	1 154.8	–	–	(1 154.8)	(721.1)
	Panel of Experts on Liberia	170.6	94.2	76.4	170.6	–	–	(170.6)	(76.4)
	Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	292.2	292.2	0.0	292.2	–	–	(292.2)	(0.0)
	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism	4 921.1	4 195.6	725.5	4 921.1	–	–	(4 921.1)	(725.5)
	Total, discontinued missions	**6 538.7**	**5 015.7**	**1 523.0**	**6 538.7**	**–**	**–**	**(6 538.7)**	**(1 523.0)**
	Grand total	**561 381.1**	**555 870.5**	**5 510.6**	**561 381.1**	**576 966.6**[c]	**10 387.5**	**15 585.5**	**571 456.0**

[a] Net requirements, after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

[b] Reflects the combined appropriation for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel.

[c] The table does not include information on the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, the United Nations Mission in Colombia, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, reports for which entities are still to be submitted.

[d] The figures do not include the share of special political missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda.

Annex II

Summary of requirements by major component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2016			2016	Requirements for 2017			2017
Category of expenditure	Appropriation (1)	Estimated expenditure (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Appropriation (4)	Total (5)	Non-recurrent (6)	Variance from 2016 to 2017 (7)=(5)-(4)	New requirements (8)=(5)-(6)
I. Military and police personnel								
1. Military observers	985.5	806.2	179.3	985.5	909.7		(75.8)	730.4
2. Military contingent	20 943.8	20 504.9	438.9	20 943.8	31 364.2		10 420.4	30 925.3
3. United Nations police	951.1	971.6	(20.5)	951.1	1 028.7		77.6	1 049.2
4. Formed police units								
Total, category I	**22 880.4**	**22 282.7**	**597.7**	**22 880.4**	**33 302.6**		**10 422.2**	**32 704.9**
II. Civilian personnel								
1. International staff	236 120.7	235 504.8	615.9	236 120.7	235 736.4		(384.3)	235 120.5
2. National staff	75 507.4	79 744.5	(4 237.1)	75 507.4	76 725.2		1 217.8	80 962.3
3. United Nations Volunteers	4 071.9	4 570.2	(498.3)	4 071.9	4 631.0		559.1	5 129.3
4. General temporary assistance	923.2	387.0	536.2	923.2	1 322.0		398.8	985.8
5. Government-provided personnel	421.6	256.2	165.4	421.6	726.7		305.1	561.3
Total, category II	**317 044.8**	**320 462.7**	**(3 417.9)**	**317 044.8**	**319 341.3**		**2 296.5**	**322 759.2**
III. Operational costs								
1. Experts	13 416.0	12 683.7	732.3	13 416.0	13 016.4		(399.6)	12 284.1
2. Consultants	4 299.7	4 398.3	(98.6)	4 299.7	4 083.1		(216.6)	4 181.7
3. Official travel	16 309.8	16 336.5	(26.7)	16 309.8	16 273.9		(35.9)	16 380.6
4. Facilities and infrastructure	74 322.2	71 385.6	2 936.6	74 322.2	81 291.7	2 452.8	6 969.5	78 355.1
5. Ground transportation	8 916.6	8 805.3	111.3	8 916.6	12 310.2	4 851.5	3 393.6	12 198.9
6. Air transportation	41 709.7	41 412.8	5 296.9	41 709.7	42 941.4	534.8	(1 768.3)	39 634.5
7. Naval transportation	27.4	27.4		27.4	27.4			27.4
8. Communications	22 325.9	20 870.3	1 455.6	22 325.9	21 080.8	1 299.8	(1 245.1)	19 625.2
9. Information technology	9 679.3	11 499.5	(1 820.2)	9 679.3	9 834.3	989.1	155.0	11 654.5

Category of expenditure	1 January to 31 December 2016			2016	Requirements for 2017			2017
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance	Appropriation	Total	Non-recurrent	Variance from 2016 to 2017	Net requirements
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(6)
10. Medical	5 258.9	4 529.0	729.9	5 258.9	6 037.0	259.5	778.1	5 307.1
11. Special equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
12. Other supplies, services and equipment	15 651.7	16 161.0	(509.3)	15 651.7	17 426.5	–	1 774.8	17 935.8
13. Quick-impact projects	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total, category III	**214 917.2**	**208 109.4**	**6 807.8**	**214 917.2**	**224 322.7**	**10 387.5**	**9 405.5**	**217 514.9**
Total (net requirements)	**554 842.4**	**550 854.8**	**3 987.6**	**554 842.4**	**576 966.6**	**10 387.5**	**22 124.2**	**572 979.0**
Discontinued missions[2]	**6 538.7**	**5 015.7**	**1 523.0**	**6 538.7**	–	–	**(6 538.7)**	**(1 523.0)**
Grand total[3]	**561 381.1**	**555 870.5**	**5 510.6**	**561 381.1**	**576 966.6**[4]	**10 387.5**	**15 585.5**	**571 456.0**

[1] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

[2] Missions that are discontinued in 2017: Panel of Experts on Liberia, Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism.

[3] The figures do not include the share of special political missions for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda.

[4] The table does not include information for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including in Burundi, the United Nations Mission in Colombia, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, reports for which entities are still to be submitted.

Annex III

Air operations resources, 2015-2017

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Appropriation 2015	*Expenditures 2015*	*Actual flying hours 2015*	*Approved budget 2016*	*Budgeted flying hours 2016*	*Proposed budget 2017*	*Proposed flying hours 2017*
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region							
FW	–	49.3	–	–	–	–	–
RW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	–	4.9	–	–	–	–	–
Other[a]	152.0	45.3	–	129.8	23.6	125.0	26.3
Subtotal	**152.0**	**99.5**	**–**	**129.8**	**23.6**	**125.0**	**26.3**
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel							
FW	2 483.7	2 717.8	373.5	2 883.8	450.0	3 140.6	450.0
RW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	580.6	587.7	–	620.4	–	626.5	–
Other[a]	193.8	341.5	–	286.3	–	311.1	–
Subtotal	**3 258.1**	**3 647.0**	**373.5**	**3 790.5**	**450.0**	**4 078.2**	**450.0**
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau							
FW	764.2	740.2	19.8	769.0	120.0	837.5	120.0
RW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	178.6	184.4	–	154.8	–	157.2	–
Other[a]	116.3		–	139.7	–	146.2	–
Subtotal	**1 059.1**	**924.6**	**19.8**	**1 073.5**	**120.0**	**1 140.9**	**120.0**
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia							
FW	3 448.7	5 302.6	–	5 161.3	1 073.0	4 098.9	585.0
RW	2 920.6	3 402.1	–	2 628.7	1 518.0	1 898.1	510.0
POL	2 194.2	2 230.6	–	3 556.2	–	2 783.2	–
Other[a]	822.4	–	–	556.0	–	1 460.3	–
Subtotal	**9 385.9**	**10 935.3**	**–**	**11 902.2**	**2 591.0**	**10 150.5**	**1 095.0**
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission							
FW	191.1	181.4	26.8	192.3	30.0	209.4	30.0
RW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	44.7	112.9	–	41.8	–	41.8	–
Other[a]	67.2	136.2	–	67.2	–	67.2	–
Subtotal	**303.0**	**430.5**	**26.8**	**301.3**	**30.0**	**318.4**	**30.0**

	Appropriation 2015	*Expenditures 2015*	*Actual flying hours 2015*	*Approved budget 2016*	*Budgeted flying hours 2016*	*Proposed budget 2017*	*Proposed flying hours 2017*
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa							
FW	140.5	34.3	5.3	140.5	63.0	140.5	63.0
RW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	28.3	2.1		27.6	–	27.6	–
Other[a]	60.2	–	–	59.4	–	59.4	–
Subtotal	**229.0**	**36.4**	**5.3**	**227.5**	**63.0**	**227.5**	**63.0**
United Nations Support Mission in Libya							
FW		2 186.5	353.6	1 752.6	602.0	2 957.5	960.0
RW		–	–	–	–	–	–
POL		1.3	–	152.4	–	1 135.7	–
Other[a]	–	–	–	480.3	–	1 533.8	–
Subtotal	–	**2 187.8**	**353.6**	**2 385.3**	**602.0**	**5 627.0**	**960.0**
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan							
FW	10 292.4	15 140.7	1 406.5	7 668.1	1 500.0	5 419.0	1 620.0
RW	8 453.0	–	1 174.7	8 452.6	1 500.0	8 140.0	900.0
POL	2 924.8	1 616.5	–	2 298.1	–	1 553.0	–
Other[a]	267.7	50.5	–	171.1	–	190.9	–
Subtotal	**21 937.9**	**16 807.7**	**2 581.2**	**18 589.9**	**3 000.0**	**15 302.9**	**2 520.0**
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq							
FW	5 780.0	8 574.0	1 087.7	5 145.6	1 250.0	5 043.3	1 125.0
RW	11 225.0	–	–	–	–	–	–
POL	1 293.5	865.0	–	912.4	–	674.9	–
Other[a]	734.1	229.1	–	251.7	–	252.8	–
Subtotal	**19 032.6**	**9 668.1**	**1 087.7**	**6 309.7**	**1 250.0**	**5 971.0**	**1 125.0**
Total	**55 357.6**	**44 736.9**	**4 447.9**	**44 709.7**	**8 129.6**	**42 941.4**	**6 389.3**
FW	23 100.6	34 926.8	3 273.2	23 713.2	5 088.0	21 756.7	4 953.0
RW	22 598.6	3 402.1	1 174.7	11 081.3	3 018.0	10 038.1	1 410.0
POL	7 244.7	5 605.4	–	7 763.7	–	6 999.9	–
Other[a]	2 413.7	802.6	–	2 151.5	23.6	4 146.7	26.3
Total	**55 357.6**	**44 736.9**	**4 447.9**	**44 709.7**	**8 129.6**	**42 941.4**	**6 389.3**

Abbreviations: FW, fixed-wing aircraft, including rental and operation and liability insurance; RW, rotary-wing aircraft, including rental and operation and liability insurance; POL, petrol, oil and lubricants.

[a] Equipment and supplies, services, landing fees, ground handling charges and aircrew subsistence allowances.

Annex IV

Estimate of annual contributions from host countries

Mission	Support provided free of charge by host country	Annual contribution (United States dollars)
Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions		
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	Office premises in Dakar	285 200
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	Office premises	370 727
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	Office premises in Dakar	244 800
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	Premises (United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa headquarters and residence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General)	652 800
United Nations assistance missions		
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	Land for regional offices and air terminal and premises	10 477 500
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	Premises in Kuwait and Baghdad, as well as airport fees and embarkation/disembarkation at all airports in Iraq and Kuwait, are free of charge	8 394 252

Annex V

Apportionment of resources, among individual missions, related to expert panels for recruitment to special political missions, based on the number of authorized international staff positions for 2016

Mission	*Number of authorized international staff positions*	*Percentage of total special political mission posts*	*Share of funding for expert panels (United States dollars)*
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	10	0.75	2 235
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia	8	0.60	1 788
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	20	1.49	4 471
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	356	26.53	79 583
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	25	1.86	5 589
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	376	28.02	84 054
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	14	1.04	3 130
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen	28	2.09	6 259
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	154	11.48	34 426
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	7	0.52	1 565
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	29	2.16	6 483
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	61	4.55	13 636
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	51	3.80	11 401
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	153	11.40	34 203
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	19	1.42	4 247
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan	5	0.37	1 118
United Nations Office in Burundi	26	1.94	5 812
Total	**1 342**	**100.00**	**300 000**

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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (thematic cluster I, A/71/365/Add.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 8 November 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). Issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions will be covered in the main report of the Advisory Committee (A/71/595), while the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI will be covered in its related reports (A/71/595 and addenda).

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3. The report of the Secretary-General presents the resource requirements for 2017 for 9 of the 11 missions grouped under thematic cluster I relating to the special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General. The proposals for Burundi and Yemen will be submitted in separate addenda.

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400,000 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 for special political missions (resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365).

II. Resource requirements

5. The resources proposed for nine special political missions under thematic cluster I in 2017 amount to $34,385,900, reflecting an increase of $7,460,000 (27.7 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $26,925,900 for 2016. Taking into account the projected overexpenditure at the end of 2016, representing an increase of $2,693,100 (10 per cent) over the appropriation, the additional resources sought by the Secretary-General for the nine missions amount to $37,079,000. Tables 1 and 2 below provide a summary of the resource requirements for 2017 with a breakdown of the proposed resources by mission (see also A/71/365/Add.1, table 1) and major category of expenditure, respectively.

Table 1

Summary of resource requirements by mission

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2016				*Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017*			
Mission	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017*[a] (8)=(5)-(3)
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	1 127.2	1 115.0	12.2	1 127.2	1 137.8	–	10.6	1 125.6
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	2 564.6	2 701.1	(136.5)	2 564.6	2 810.5	15.0	245.9	2 947.0
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	2 183.7	2 174.0	9.7	2 183.7	2 201.0	–	17.3	2 191.3
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	549.5	537.9	11.6	549.5	545.3	–	(4.2)	533.7
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	624.9	419.9	205.0	624.9	489.2	–	(135.7)	284.2

	1 January-31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017			
Mission	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017[a]* (8)=(5)-(3)
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	1 937.7	1 937.7	–	1 937.7	1 976.0	–	38.3	1 976.0
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	12 124.3	14 900.5	(2 776.2)	12 124.3	19 506.3	80.6	7 382.0	22 282.5
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan	1 412.7	1 450.2	(37.5)	1 412.7	1 387.3	–	(25.4)	1 424.8
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	4 401.3	4 382.7	18.6	4 401.3	4 332.5	26.5	(68.8)	4 313.9
Total	**26 925.9**	**29 619.0**	**(2 693.1)**	**26 925.9**	**34 385.9**	**122.1**	**7 460.0**	**37 079.0**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Table 2

Summary of financial resources by major category of expenditure

	1 January-31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017			
Category of expenditure	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017* (8)=(5)-(3)
I. Civilian personnel								
1. International staff	16 946.5	17 233.1	(286.6)	16 946.5	18 616.2	–	1 669.7	18 902.8
2. National staff	1 449.9	1 552.1	(102.2)	1 449.9	1 988.2	–	538.3	2 090.4
Total, category I	**18 396.4**	**18 785.2**	**(388.8)**	**18 396.4**	**20 604.4**	**–**	**2 208.0**	**20 993.2**
II. Operational costs								
1. Consultants	506.2	712.0	(205.8)	506.2	530.5	–	24.3	736.3
2. Official travel	3 197.1	3 542.3	(345.2)	3 197.1	4 103.6	–	906.5	4 448.8
3. Facilities and infrastructure	2 280.1	3 451.2	(1 171.1)	2 280.1	5 064.3	21.2	2 784.2	6 235.4
4. Ground transportation	470.3	477.7	(7.4)	470.3	571.7	–	101.4	579.1
5. Air transportation	129.8	129.8	–	129.8	125.0	–	(4.8)	125.0
6. Communications	708.2	702.5	5.7	708.2	740.0	28.2	31.8	734.3
7. Information technology	424.0	439.2	(15.2)	424.0	423.5	72.7	(0.5)	438.7
8. Medical	4.6	4.6	–	4.6	4.6	–	–	4.6

	1 January-31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2017			
Category of expenditure	Appropriation (1)	Estimated expenditures (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Appropriation 2016 (4)=(1)	Total requirements (5)	Non-recurrent requirements (6)	Variance (2017-2016) (7)=(5)-(4)	Net requirements for 2017 (8)=(5)-(3)
9. Other supplies, services and equipment	809.2	1 374.5	(565.3)	809.2	2 218.3	–	1 409.1	2 783.6
Total, category II	**8 529.5**	**10 833.8**	**(2 304.3)**	**8 529.5**	**13 781.5**	**122.1**	**5 252.0**	**16 085.8**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**26 925.9**	**29 619.0**	**(2 693.1)**	**26 925.9**	**34 385.9**	**122.1**	**7 460.0**	**37 079.0**

Budget performance for 2016

6. The estimated expenditures for 2016 amount to $29,619,000, representing an increase of $2,693,100 (10 per cent) over the appropriation of $26,925,900. The overall increase reflects the estimated net effect of higher than budgeted requirements for three missions and lower than budgeted requirements for five missions. A summary of the significant variances between the 2016 appropriation and projected expenditures is provided in table 4 of the Secretary-General's main report (A/71/365).

7. Key variances between the approved resources and projected expenditures for 2016 include the following:

(a) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, the additional requirements in 2016 ($2,776,200, or 22.9 per cent) are related to the expansion of the mandate of the Office under Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015) and 2268 (2016), resulting in higher expenditures under: (i) posts ($384,700, or 4.7 per cent), for the deployment of 23 additional international staff and national staff; (ii) consultants ($200,000, or 100 per cent), to support the Special Envoy during the intra-Syrian talks and International Syria Support Group (ISSG) task force meetings; (iii) official travel ($459,000, or 49.9 per cent), undertaken by the Special Envoy, the Deputy Special Envoy and substantive staff for consultation with various stakeholders; (iv) other supplies services and equipment ($561,400, or 232.9 per cent), related to servicing of additional conferences, meetings, peace talks and task force meetings; and (v) facilities and infrastructure ($1,171,100, or 69.1 per cent), for office space for additional staff and rental of secure premises in Damascus. A commitment authority was approved by the Advisory Committee on 7 June 2016 in the amount of $4,693,200 under the terms of General Assembly resolution 70/250. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that appropriation for the amount used against the commitment authority will be sought in the context of the overall requirements for special political missions for the biennium 2016-2017;

(b) For the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, the additional requirements in 2016 ($136,500, or 5.3 per cent) are related to an increase in the pace of negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement, resulting in higher expenditures for: (a) international staff ($80,200, or 4.9 per cent)

owing to lower than budgeted actual vacancy rates; and (b) official travel ($40,800, or 23.9 per cent);

(c) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), the lower than planned requirements ($205,000, or 32.8 per cent) are mainly due to lower actual staff costs for incumbents of positions and lower requirements for official travel subsequent to the resignation of the Special Envoy in May 2016.

Proposed resources for 2017

8. The proposed resources for 2017 amount to $34,385,900, representing an increase of $7,460,000 (27.7 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016. The overall increase reflects the net effect of increased requirements for five missions and lower requirements for four missions compared with 2016. A summary of the significant variances between the approved resources for 2016 and the proposed resources for 2017 is provided in table 6 of the Secretary-General's main report (A/71/365).

9. Key variances between the approved resources for 2016 and proposed requirements for 2017 include the following:

(a) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $19,506,300, reflecting an increase of $7,382,000 (60.9 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($12,124,300). The increase is related to the expansion of the mandate of the Office under Security Council resolutions 2254 (2015) and 2268 (2016), resulting in the proposed net increase of 30 international and 22 national staff positions as well as higher requirements for travel, conference-related services and rental of secure premises in Damascus;

(b) For the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,810,500, reflecting an increase of $245,900 (9.6 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($2,564,600), related to the proposed establishment of two international staff positions (1 P-3 and 1 Field Service);

(c) For the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,976,000, reflecting an increase of $38,300 (2.0 per cent) owing to lower projected vacancy rates for international staff;

(d) For the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,137,800, reflecting an increase of $10,600 (0.9 per cent) due to an increase in international staff costs reflecting the higher actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents, partly offset by the decrease in travel requirements;

(e) For the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,201,000, reflecting an increase of $17,300 (0.8 per cent) owing to an increase in international staff costs reflecting the higher actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents;

(f) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $489,200, reflecting a decrease of $135,700 (21.7 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($624,900), related to a decrease in travel requirements;

(g) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,387,300, reflecting a decrease of $25,400 (1.8 per cent) owing to higher projected vacancy rates for international staff, partly offset by the proposed establishment of one driver position (1 Local level);

(h) For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $4,332,500, reflecting a decrease of $68,800 (1.6 per cent), mostly under: (i) international staff costs reflecting the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents; and (ii) information technology, owing to the discontinuation of internationally contracted personnel as a result of the change in support arrangements for the Office;

(i) For the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $545,300, reflecting a decrease of $4,200 (0.8 per cent) attributable to lower international staff costs reflecting the ratio of actual common staff cost expenditures to actual salaries based on average expenditure trends.

A. Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

10. Table 3 below presents positions approved for 2016, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2016 and the proposed staffing requirements for 2017 for the nine missions covered in the report of the Secretary-General on thematic cluster I.

Table 3
Summary of staffing requirements[a]

	Approved for 2016	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2017*	*New positions*	*Abolishments*	*Reclassifications*
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	5 (1 USG, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	5 (1 USG, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	19 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 3 FS, 1 GS (OL), 5 LL)	–	21 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 1 P-3, 4 FS, 1 GS (OL), 5 LL)	2 (1 P-3, 1 FS)	–	–
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	10 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	1 ASG	10 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	2 (1 USG, 1 P-3)	–	2 (1 USG, 1 P-3)	–	–	–
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	1 USG	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	7 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	7 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	80 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 11 P-4, 7 P-3, 13 FS, 9 GS (OL), 29 LL)	22 (1 D-2, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 5 P-3, 3 FS, 6 LL)	132 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 9 P-5, 21 P-4, 18 P-3, 1 P-2, 17 FS, 9 GS (OL), 51 LL[b])	58 (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 10 P-4, 11 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 FS, 3 GS-OL, 25 LL)	6 (3 GS (OL), 3 LL)	–
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan	8 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 NPO, 1 LL)	–	9 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 NPO, 2 LL)	1 (1 LL)	–	–
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	27 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 6 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 FS, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO, 7 LL)	6 (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 LL)	27 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 6 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 FS, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO, 7 LL)	–	–	–

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

[a] Excludes requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention, including on Burundi.

[b] The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria proposes the redeployment of 5 LL positions from the security component to the support component and the redeployment of 2 LL positions from the Syrian Arab Republic to the Kuwait Joint Support Office.

[c] Includes 23 positions funded in 2016 under a commitment authority approved by the Advisory Committee (see para. 7 (a) above).

11. The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on the staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria are contained in paragraphs 12 to 27 below. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the remaining seven missions in the report of the Secretary-General.**

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

12. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that, with a stated commitment by the leaders to reach a comprehensive settlement agreement as soon as possible, the intensification of the talks in the second half of 2015 is expected to continue for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017, with further intensification of the substantive negotiations and the technical work streams. To address those needs, it is proposed to establish two positions for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus in 2017 for: (a) one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), to provide substantive support to the Office on all aspects of the negotiations; and (b) one Administrative Assistant (Field Service), to provide administrative and logistical support for the Special Adviser and the meetings of the two sides.

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in 2016, two United Nations staff had been recruited on temporary assignment from other duty stations to support the negotiations and the increased number of meetings as follows: (a) one Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for a period of three months to assist the Special Adviser and support coordination of technical assistance to the negotiations; and (b) one Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Department of Political Affairs, in New York, for a period of two months to facilitate and coordinate meetings and to provide substantive guidance to the Special Adviser. The Committee was further informed that the Secretariat expected the establishment of the two proposed positions to replace the need for temporary staff from other duty stations; however, due to the fluid and unpredictable nature of the negotiation process, the changing needs and the expectations of the sides, specialized expertise might be required when existing capacity within the Office of the Special Adviser was not sufficient.

14. The Advisory Committee is of the view that insufficient justification has been provided in support of the proposed establishment of the above-mentioned two positions. In view of the fluid nature of the negotiation process described above and the need for specialized expertise, the Committee considers that the Office of the Special Adviser should continue with the current arrangements and recruit temporary staff as and when required, rather than establish new positions. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the Office also obtains substantive and logistical support from the other United Nations presence in the mission area, namely the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (see A/70/717, para. 10). **The Committee trusts that the Office will take full advantage of those existing arrangements with UNFICYP to obtain the necessary additional support, as required.**

15. **In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment of two additional positions for one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and**

one Administrative Assistant (Field Service) for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus in 2017. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's remaining staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus.

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

16. For the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, a net increase of 52 positions is proposed, reflecting the proposed establishment of 58 new positions and abolishment of 6 positions, resulting in a total staffing complement of 132 positions in 2017, reflecting a 65 per cent increase compared with the current level of 80 positions. Paragraphs 150 to 152 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.1) provides information on the proposed distribution of the mission's personnel among the substantive, security and support components and by location, in Geneva, Damascus, New York and Kuwait.

New positions

17. The 58 positions[1] proposed for establishment comprise: (a) 32 new positions under the substantive component (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 8 P-4, 9 P-3, 1 P-2, 3 General Service (Other level)) and 7 Local level); (b) 7 new positions under the security component (3 Field Service and 4 Local level); and (c) 19 new positions under the support component (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Field Service and 14 Local level).

18. The location and functions of the proposed positions are summarized as follows:

(a) A total of 13 positions (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2 and 3 General Service (Other level)) are proposed under the substantive component in Geneva, comprising:

(i) Facilitation of intra-Syrian talks: 7 positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 3 General Service (Other level)) are proposed for:

a. One Senior Public Information Officer/Spokesperson (1 P-5), to head the Public Information Office in Geneva and serve as Spokesperson for the Special Envoy;

b. One Special Assistant (1 P-4), to provide logistical and substantive support to four senior-level consultants to be engaged as formal facilitators for the talks;

c. One Political Affairs Officer (1 P-3), to provide secretariat services for the talks and inputs into reports to United Nations headquarters and to the Security Council;

d. One Public Information Officer (1 P-2);

e. Three Administrative Assistants (3 General Service (Other level)), to provide administrative support to the talks as well as to ISSG task forces;

[1] Includes 23 positions funded in 2016 under a commitment authority approved by the Advisory Committee (see para. 7 (a) above).

(ii) Constitution and Elections-related matters: one Senior Electoral Officer (1 D-1) is proposed to provide advice to the Special Envoy on issues likely to emerge during the Geneva negotiations and assistance with identifying election-related needs and staffing support in the lead-up to the holding of the elections;

(iii) ISSG task force on humanitarian access and ISSG ceasefire task force and United Nations operations centre: four positions (2 P-4 and 2 P-3) are proposed for:

a. One Political Affairs Officer (1 P-4) to support the task force on humanitarian access;

b. One Political Affairs Officer (1 P-4) to support the secretariat for the ISSG ceasefire task force and the United Nations operations centre;

c. Two Political Affairs Officers (2 P-3) to work in shifts in the operations centre and ensure round-the-clock communications among the relevant ISSG focal points;

(iv) Syrian Women's Advisory Board and Civil Society Support Room: one Gender Adviser (1 P-4), to provide ongoing support to the Advisory Board and advice to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General;

(b) A total of 19 positions (2 P-5, 4 P-4, 6 P-3 and 7 Local level) are proposed under the substantive component in Damascus, comprising:

(i) One Senior Human Rights Officer (1 P-5), to strengthen the United Nations capacity to assess/monitor the compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions;

(ii) One Senior Military Adviser (1 P-5), to provide technical and subject-matter advice on the cessation of hostilities/ceasefires to the Head of Office in Damascus; support local mediation efforts; establish and maintain local relationships with parties and key interlocutors to the conflict; and maintain sustainable liaison channels with key international stakeholders;

(iii) Four Military Advisers (1 P-4 and 3 P-3), to support the Senior Military Adviser and to be deployed to existing hubs such as Aleppo and Homs when security conditions permit;

(iv) Two Interpreters/Translators (1 P-4 and 1 P-3), for servicing the various meetings of the Special Envoy, Deputy Special Envoy, the Head of Office and the Political and Military Advisers in Damascus;

(v) Four Political Affairs Officers (2 P-4 and 2 P-3), to support the Head of Office and the Deputy; work closely with the Military Advisers; liaise with Syrian interlocutors; monitor national and regional political developments; provide inputs into reports to Headquarters and to the Security Council; participate in the provision of other secretariat services for meetings in the Syrian Arab Republic; and monitor actions taken by key stakeholders;

(vi) Seven Local level positions for 2 Administrative Assistants, 3 Language/Translation Assistants and 2 Public Information Assistants, to provide support to the newly proposed positions in Damascus;

(c) A total of 7 positions (3 Field Service and 4 Local level) are proposed under the security component in Damascus, comprising:

(i) Three Operations Assistants (3 Field Service), to assist in maintaining situational awareness, collecting and compiling relevant security information for input into operational planning;

(ii) Four Operations Assistants (4 Local level), to support the Security Officers and the Chief of Security, coordinate with various actors in order to secure the administrative and logistical support for the deployment of mission staff and for the overall functioning of the Office of the Special Envoy;

(d) A total of 2 positions (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) are proposed under the support component in Geneva, comprising:

(i) One Chief Human Resources Officer (1 P-4) to assist the mission leadership, including Chief of Mission Support, in strategic workforce planning for the mission;

(ii) One Finance and Budget Officer (1 P-3) to provide a dedicated resource for performing budget-related functions;

(e) A total of 15 positions (1 Field Service and 14 Local level) are proposed under the support component in Damascus, comprising:

(i) Two Procurement Assistants (1 Field Service and 1 Local level), to provide procurement support, currently provided by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The Assistants will coordinate with UNDOF, which has the delegated authority for procurement on behalf of Office of the Special Envoy;

(ii) Two Inventory and Supply Assistants (Local level), to meet the increased demands related to the expanded mandated activities;

(iii) One Travel Assistant (Local level), to meet increasing travel demands expected from the intensive engagement on the Syrian political process;

(iv) One Team Assistant (Local level), to provide administrative support to the Logistics Officer, in particular the receipt and dispatching of diplomatic pouches and the monitoring of all contracts under the Logistics Section for compliance;

(v) Two Information Technology Assistants (Local level) to provide technical support on relevant hardware and systems applications in view of the increase in staff;

(vi) One Telecommunications Technician (Local level), in view of the increase in staff;

(vii) One Telecommunications Assistant (1 Local level), in view of the increase in staff;

(viii) Three Logistics Assistants (3 Local level), to augment the existing administrative and support-related staffing complement to respond to the expanded mandate of the Office, in lieu of three Logistics Assistant (General Service (Other level)) positions proposed for abolition in Geneva.

(ix) Two Vehicle Technicians (Local level), to carry out preventive maintenance on the vehicles by periodic inspections;

(f) A total of 2 positions (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) are proposed in New York, comprising:

(i) One Human Resources Officer (P-4) in the Field Personnel Division, to provide operational support, policy and guidance, oversight, workforce planning and strategic advisory services;

(ii) One Planning Officer (P-3) in the Operational Support Team in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support, to serve as the principal focal point for all planning for the mission in the Department of Field Support and for all aspects of cross-cutting mission support issues.

Abolishments

19. A total of six posts are proposed for abolishment, comprising:

(a) Three Logistics Assistant positions (3 General Service (Other level)) in Geneva, which are proposed to be established in Damascus (see para. 18 (e) (viii) above);

(b) Three Driver positions (3 Local level) under the security component in Damascus, in view of the reduction in the vehicle fleet.

Redeployments

20. A total of seven positions (7 Local level) are proposed for redeployment as follows:

(a) Two positions from Mission Support in Damascus to the Kuwait Joint Support Office comprising: 1 Administrative Assistant position (Local level), to provide human resources support services; and 1 Finance and Budget Assistant position (Local level);

(b) Five positions (5 Local level) from the security component to Mission Support in Damascus for five drivers in order to adjust the reporting lines.

Comments and recommendations

21. The staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria include a total of three new finance/budget and human resources management positions (2 P-4 and 1 P-3), located in Geneva and New York, as well as the redeployment of two positions (Local level) from Damascus to Kuwait (see paras. 18 (d), 18 (f) (i) and 20 (a) above). **In view of the deployment of Umoja, the United Nations enterprise resource planning system, which is accessible worldwide and covers finance and human resources management functionality, the Advisory Committee questions both the requirement for such a large number of positions for human resources management and finance/budget functions as well as the need for placing such personnel in so many locations. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the proposed positions for one Human Resources Officer (P-4) in the Field Personnel Division of the Department of Field Support in New York, one Chief**

Human Resources Officer (P-4) in Geneva and one Finance and Budget Officer (P-3) in Geneva. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.

22. One Planning Officer (P-3) position is proposed in the Operational Support Team in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support (see para. 18 (f) (ii) above). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Operational Support Team comprised eight posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 General Service (Other level)) and 1 temporary assistance position (1 P-4) funded from the peacekeeping support account. **In view of the staffing levels of the Team, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the functions of the position can be carried out within existing capacity and therefore recommends against approval of the proposed Planning Officer (P-3) position. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

23. As indicated in paragraph 20 (a) above, the Secretary-General is proposing redeployment of two positions (Local level) from Mission Support in Damascus to the Kuwait Joint Support Office. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls the comments and observations it has made in the past few years and reiterates its view that an independent verification and review of the full costs and benefits, both qualitative and quantitative, of the Support Office would be useful (see A/70/7/Add.10, para. 58; and A/69/628, para. 56). **The Advisory Committee considers that this question has not yet been addressed and remains unconvinced as to the efficacy of the proposed arrangement for the redeployment of posts from Damascus to Kuwait. The Committee is also of the view that the utilization of the Kuwait Joint Support Office needs to be revisited, taking into account the Secretariat-wide deployment of Umoja and the future global service delivery model (see A/71/595). In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the proposed redeployment of two positions (Local level) from Mission Support in Damascus to the Kuwait Joint Support Office.**

24. The Advisory Committee was informed that vacancy factors of 40 and 25 per cent had been applied in estimating the 2017 requirements for international and national staff respectively, compared with 30 and 10 per cent in 2016. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the status and incumbency levels of the 23 additional positions proposed for 2016 under the commitment authority approved by the Advisory Committee (see para. 7 (a) above), showing that, as at 31 August 2016, only 3 of the 23 positions approved were encumbered, reflecting a vacancy factor of 87 per cent. **The Advisory Committee expects that every effort will be made to fill the vacant posts that are needed expeditiously.**

25. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was also provided with further information showing that, as at 30 April 2016, a total of seven positions had been vacant for two years or more. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the continued requirement for any posts that have remained vacant for two years or more should be fully justified or proposed for abolishment.**

26. Notwithstanding the above, the Advisory Committee recognizes that the Office faces extraordinary operational and security challenges that have an impact on the pace of recruitment of staff to the newly approved positions. The Committee also considers that certain positions proposed — for instance, the Senior Electoral

Officer (D-1) — may not be required in the immediate future. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Office will fill the proposed positions only as and when the requirement for the functions of the positions arise and can realistically be carried out.** Under the circumstances and taking into account the significant increase in the proposed staffing level of the mission (see para. 16 above), the Advisory Committee doubts that the planned positions can realistically be filled in 2017. **Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that vacancy factors of 60 per cent be applied for the new international and 40 per cent for the new national staff positions proposed for 2017. The Committee further recommends that any related non-post resources be adjusted accordingly.**

27. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 21, 22, 23 and 26 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, including those related to the 23 positions funded under a commitment authority approved by the Advisory Committee (see para. 7 (a) above).**

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

28. The proposed resources for operational costs for the nine special political missions under thematic cluster I in 2017 amount to $13,781,500, reflecting an increase of $5,252,000 (61.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $8,529,500 for 2016 (see table 2 above). Taking into account the projected overexpenditure at the end of 2016, estimated at $2,304,300 (27.0 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 (8,529,500), the additional resources for operational costs sought by the Secretary-General for the nine missions under thematic cluster I amount to $16,085,800.

29. The Advisory Committee was informed that the key variances in the operational costs between the approved resources for 2016 and proposed requirements for 2017 were mainly related to higher requirements under:

(a) Facilities and infrastructure ($2,784,200, or 122.1 per cent) for: (i) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($2,764,300), related to the provision of rental of secure premises in Damascus; and (ii) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus ($21,000), owing to increases for maintenance services and utilities as well as the provision for stationery and office supplies, previously budgeted under other supplies, services and equipment;

(b) Other supplies, services and equipment ($1,409,100, or 174.1 per cent), mainly for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($1,400,100), for additional requirements for conferences, meetings, peace talks, task force meetings and the round-the-clock operations centre;

(c) Official travel ($906,500, or 28.3 per cent) for: (i) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($1,037,000), related to additional travel to be undertaken by the Special Envoy, the Deputy Special Envoy and substantive staff to the region, to the capital cities of the permanent members of the Security Council and to United Nations Headquarters for consultations with various stakeholders; and (ii) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on

Cyprus ($28,700) related to increased requirements for training travel for staff, additional trips from Geneva to New York and from Geneva to Cyprus for the Special Adviser, a longer duration of the trips, and an increase in the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate for Cyprus from $165 to $169. The above increases would be partially offset by lower requirements for: (i) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar ($38,900), owing to a reduction in the number of trips to the region; (ii) the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) ($108,900), owing to a reduced number of trips by the Special Envoy and his staff to Lebanon and other destinations in the region in 2017; (iii) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region ($8,900), owing to decreases in the number and duration of the planned trips as well as rates for air travel and DSA; and (iv) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan ($2,500), owing to a reduction in the number of trips;

(d) Ground transportation ($101,400, or 21.6 per cent) for: (i) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($92,300), to provide for a contractual arrangement with a taxi company to provide transportation services for the national staff to travel to and from the office to their areas of residence to comply with Department of Safety and Security requirements (see para. 33 below); and (ii) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus ($11,400), owing to the requirement for one additional vehicle due to an increase in staff, to an increased number of off-site meetings and to new contractual rates in effect as of 1 July 2016;

(e) Communications ($31,800, or 4.5 per cent) for: (i) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus ($19,600), mainly due to increased requirements for public information-related services due to the need to monitor local television and radio broadcasts in view of the acceleration in the negotiations, and provision for the acquisition of one crypto telephone; and (ii) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan ($12,200) for maintenance of equipment and communications support services as a result of the separation of leadership of Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan and the United Nations Office to the African Union;

(f) Consultants ($24,300, or 4.8 per cent), mainly for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region owing to a higher number of consultancy months (9 months in 2016 and 10 months in 2017) and higher average cost of consultancies for 2017 compared with 2016, due to the need to hire consultants with a higher level of experience (see para. 35 below).

30. The higher requirements under the above categories of expenditure would be partially offset by lower requirements under:

(a) Air transportation ($4,800), for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region owing to efforts to prioritize activities and use alternative modes of transportation to a greater extent, where possible;

(b) Information technology ($500), reflecting reduced requirements for: (i) the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus ($23,000) due to decreased requirements for replacement of information technology equipment; and (ii) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region ($37,600), owing to the discontinuation of internationally contracted information technology personnel and provision of the service by the United Nations Office at Nairobi instead. The above reductions would be offset by higher requirements for: (i) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($47,700), mainly due to the increase in staffing resulting in increased requirements for computers as well as licences and information technology services which are based on the number of computers; and (ii) the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan ($12,600) for the acquisition of equipment, services, licences, spare parts and supplies as a result of the separation of leadership of that Office and the United Nations Office to the African Union.

31. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for the operational costs for the nine missions under thematic cluster I.**

Ground transportation

32. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the vehicle fleet of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria consists of 1 armoured ambulance and 32 armoured vehicles, 23 of which had been donated by the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the former mission in the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS). The Committee was further informed that the remaining nine armoured vehicles were United Nations-owned equipment, of which eight had been procured by UNSMIS, the predecessor mission, and transferred to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and the ninth, an ambulance, had been transferred from UNAMI. Twenty-four vehicles were utilized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, and the surplus of 8 vehicles had been loaned to identified United Nations agencies supporting European Union-funded programmes. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the proposed resources for ground transportation included a provision of $120,000 for spare parts for the armoured vehicles which had higher costs of repair and maintenance.

33. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was further informed that the decision to use taxis for national staff at the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (see para. 29 (d) above) had been approved by the Security Management Team of the mission, which consists of the Designated Official, the head of each agency present at the duty station and the Chief Security Adviser and advises the Designated Official on all security-related matters at the duty station.

34. The Advisory Committee comments further on policy and cross-cutting issues related to ground transportation in its main report on special political missions (A/71/595).

Consultants

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

35. With regard to the consultants with a high level of experience referred to in paragraph 29 (f) above, the Advisory Committee was informed that this referred to consultants with high proficiency and expertise on the Great Lakes regional affairs in their respective thematic field who are hired at level C in accordance with administrative instruction ST/AI/2013/4.[2] For 2017, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region envisaged hiring of consultants at level C in the areas of economic affairs, human rights, gender affairs, political affairs and programme management (monitoring and evaluation).

36. Upon enquiry as to the status of expenditures under consultants, the Advisory Committee was informed that actual expenditures as at 30 September 2016 amounted to $24,600 against the 2016 appropriation of $70,000 and that projected expenditures for the period from October to December were estimated at $51,200, bringing the projected expenditures for 2016 to $75,800, reflecting an increase of $5,800 over the appropriation. The Committee was further informed that in 2016, due to delays from partners and stakeholders in rolling out joint programmes, the recruitment of several consultants was ongoing. Therefore, the actual expenditures will only be reflected by the end of the year when the individual consultants would have completed their assignments. **The Advisory Committee expects the Secretary-General to monitor patterns of expenditure and ensure that the concentration of expenditure at year end reflects efficient and effective use of resources.**

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

37. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed resources for consultants ($116,400) would provide for consultancy services to assist the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus and provide expertise in: governance, power sharing and other administrative matters; property and related matters; economic and social matters; human rights law; census; natural resources; and cartography. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was further informed that in 2017 a consultant on European human rights law will provide detailed insight and extensive analysis of the requirements under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms that would assist in several essential aspects of the negotiations and the settlement. For instance, expertise might become necessary to assist the sides in exploring a negotiated solution to outstanding property issues that will be compatible with fundamental human rights tenets or the setting up of a bicommunal, bizonal federation and the safeguarding of individuals'

[2] In paragraph 6 of administrative instruction ST/AI/2013/4, level C is described as follows: "This level shall be authorized to engage an individual with extensive relevant professional experience requiring specialized or technical knowledge and skills. Individuals at this level will be expected to develop new approaches, techniques or policies and/or design guidelines, standard operating procedures and a project's theme. Individuals would be engaged in projects of broad scope and considerable depth that will have an impact on the overall execution of programmes or service of a function or various interrelated areas. Expected outputs of the consultancy at this level may relate, inter alia, to providing technical support; leading group dynamics; and undertaking report drafting or project-wide proposals."

rights in the future power-sharing structures. **The Advisory Committee expects that such expertise will be acquired only as and when required and that the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus will make every effort to explore all options for seeking such expertise within the existing capacity of the Organization, prior to the engagement of a consultant.**

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

38. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed resources for consultancy services ($71,000) would provide research, preparation and training expertise on the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in order to implement the capacity-building project of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The resources would cover the daily fees and travel requirements of 13 consultants engaged on two planned research projects (1 consultant per project) and eight planned seminars (2 consultants per seminar for each of the first three seminars and 1 each for the other five seminars), with training locations in four regions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the target of the Office was to co-organize training seminars and workshops in 10 Member States in different regions and that it was anticipated that consultants will be required for eight of these activities. The report of the Secretary-General (table 8, indicator of achievement (a) (ii)) also indicates that six Member States or regional/subregional organizations would receive technical assistance in 2017. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Office had set as a target the provision of technical assistance to six Member States or regional/subregional organizations, based on the request of these Member States or regional/subregional organizations. **The Advisory Committee expects the Secretary-General to ensure that the proposed resources are aligned with the proposed activities. It trusts that details on the resources utilized and the training given will be provided in the relevant performance report for the biennium 2016-2017.**

C. Other matters

Location of the Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

39. With regard to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, the Advisory Committee was informed that a decision had been made to relocate the position of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General from Belgium to Geneva effective 1 January 2016. The General Assembly was informed of this decision during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017. In its resolution 70/248 (sect. XX, paras. 14-15), the Assembly noted the decision to locate the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria in Geneva, and decided that all costs arising from that relocation shall be accommodated within the approved resources of the Office. The Advisory Committee was further informed that, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme, which requires a three-month notice period, the Office in Belgium was formally closed effective 31 March 2016.

III. Recommendation

40. **The Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for the 31 special political missions for 2017, which require action to be taken by the General Assembly, are set out in paragraph 129 of his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365). Subject to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15, 21, 22, 23 and 26 above, as well as the recommendations in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for the nine special political missions under thematic cluster I.**

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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council on thematic cluster II (A/71/365/Add.2). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 17 October 2016.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2017 for 31 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (A/71/365/Add.1-5). Issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions will be covered in the main report of the Advisory Committee (A/71/595),[1] while the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI will be covered in its related reports (A/71/595/Add.1 and addenda).

[1] This includes the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Kuwait Joint Support Office for thematic cluster II missions.

Please recycle

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a biennial provision of $1,124,400 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2016-2017 for special political missions (resolution 70/249 A). A summary of the provision for the biennium is provided in annex I to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365).

II. Resource requirements

4. The resources proposed for 12 special political missions under thematic cluster II in 2017 amount to $34,881,600 reflecting an increase of $1,224,500 (3.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $33,657,100 for 2016. Taking into account the projected underexpenditure at the end of 2016, representing a decrease of $1,227,000 (3.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation, the additional resources sought by the Secretary-General for the 12 missions in 2017 amount to $33,654,600 (see A/71/365, tables 4 and 6). Tables 1 and 2 below provide a summary of the resource requirements for 2017, with a breakdown of the proposed resources by mission (see also A/71/365/Add.2, table 1) and major category of expenditure, respectively.

Table 1

Summary of resource requirements by mission

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2016			Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2017				
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Variance (under-/(over-) expenditure)	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017
Special political mission	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)=(1)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(4)	(8)=(5)-(6)
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	2 265.7	2 230.6	35.1	2 265.7	2 247.2	—	(18.5)	2 212.1
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 270.2	1 238.0	32.2	1 270.2	1 231.3	—	(38.9)	1 199.1
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	1 080.1	866.5	213.6	1 080.1	1 101.6	—	21.5	888.0
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2 599.7	2 514.5	85.2	2 599.7	2 524.4	—	(75.3)	2 439.2
Panel of Experts on Libya	1 359.9	1 271.5	88.4	1 359.9	1 327.4	—	(32.5)	1 239.0
Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic	1 172.0	1 147.0	25.0	1 172.0	1 172.0	—		1 147.0
Panel of Experts on Yemen	3 017.3	2 971.4	45.9	3 017.3	2 685.4	—	(331.9)	2 639.5
Panel of Experts on South Sudan	1 428.4	1 198.3	230.1	1 428.4	1 319.3	—	(109.1)	1 089.2

	1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2017			
Special political mission	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance under- (over-) expenditure* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017* (8)=(5)-(6)
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; and the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009)	6 305.8	5 920.0	385.8	6 305.8	6 729.3	–	423.5	6 343.5
Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)	1 291.2	1 035.2	256.0	1 291.2	2 136.8	–	845.6	1 880.8
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	3 143.1	3 128.1	15.0	3 143.1	2 875.7	–	(267.4)	2 860.7
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	8 723.7	8 909.0	(185.3)	8 723.7	9 531.2	1.2	807.5	9 716.5
Total	**33 657.1**	**32 430.1**	**1 227.0**	**33 657.1**	**34 881.6**	**1.2**	**1 224.5**	**33 654.6**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Table 2

Summary of financial resources by major category of expenditure

	1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2017			
Category of expenditure	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance under- (over-) expenditure* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Appropriation 2016* (4)=(1)	*Total requirements* (5)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (6)	*Variance (2017-2016)* (7)=(5)-(4)	*Net requirements for 2017* (8)=(5)-(6)
I. Civilian personnel								
1 International staff	13 681.8	13 138.3	543.5	13 681.8	15 357.6	–	1 675.8	14 814.1
2 National staff	227.9	227.9	–	227.9	231.6	–	3.7	231.6
3 General temporary assistance	62.1	62.1	–	62.1	62.1	–	–	62.1
Total, category I	**13 971.8**	**13 428.3**	**543.5**	**13 971.8**	**15 651.3**	**–**	**1 679.5**	**15 107.8**

Category of expenditure	1 January to 31 December 2016				Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2017			
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure	Estimated underexpenditure/ (overexpenditure)	Appropriation 2016	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Variance (2017-2016)	Net requirements for 2017[a]
	(1)	(2)	(3) = (1) - (2)	(4) = (1)	(5)	(6)	(7) = (5) - (4)	(8) = (5) - (6)
II. Operational costs								
1 Experts	13 416.0	12 683.7	732.3	13 416.0	13 016.4	–	(399.6)	12 284.1
2 Consultants	–	–	–	–	261.0	–	261.0	261.0
3 Official travel	2 028.5	1 998.9	29.6	2 028.5	1 964.6	–	(63.9)	1 935.0
4 Facilities and infrastructure	2 306.7	2 476.0	(169.3)	2 306.7	2 405.4	–	98.7	2 574.7
5 Ground transportation	517.7	517.7	–	517.7	267.7	–	(250.0)	267.7
6 Communications	463.8	323.1	140.7	463.8	341.7	0.3	(122.1)	201.0
7 Information technology	768.9	879.1	(110.2)	768.9	851.5	0.9	82.6	961.7
8 Other supplies, services and equipment	183.7	123.3	60.4	183.7	122.0	–	(61.7)	61.6
Total, category II	**19 685.3**	**19 001.8**	**683.5**	**19 685.3**	**19 230.3**	**1.2**	**(455.0)**	**18 546.8**
Total requirements	**33 657.1**	**32 430.1**	**1 227.0**	**33 657.1**	**34 881.6**	**1.2**	**1 224.5**	**33 654.6**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2016.

Budget performance for 2016

5. The estimated expenditures for 2016 amount to $32,430,100, representing a decrease of $1,227,000 (3.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $33,657,100. The overall decrease reflects the net effect of requirements that were higher than budgeted for 1 mission and lower than budgeted for 11 missions. A summary of the significant estimated variances between the 2016 appropriation and projected expenditures is provided in table 4 of the Secretary-General's main report (A/71/365).

6. Key variances include requirements that were lower than budgeted under:

(a) International staff ($543,500 or 4 per cent), related to (i) higher vacancy rates/vacancies than planned for international positions for the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the Panel of Experts on Yemen, the Panel of Experts on South Sudan, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) and the Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015); and (ii) the higher actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents of the international positions of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004);

(b) Experts ($732,300 or 5.5 per cent), owing to: (i) higher vacancies/delayed recruitment of experts than planned for the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic, the Panel of Experts on Yemen and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015); and (ii) lower average fees of

experts related to changes in the composition of the Panels of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libya and South Sudan;

(c) Official travel ($29,600 or 1.5 per cent), owing to: (i) changes in travel destinations resulting in lower costs for the Panels of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Libya; and (ii) a six-month vacancy of one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-3) at the Panel of Experts on South Sudan;

(d) Communications ($140,700 or 30.3 per cent), attributable to: (i) electronic subscriptions being reflected under information technology; and (ii) satellite imagery being reflected under facilities and infrastructure.

7. The estimated lower requirements in 2016 would be offset in part by higher expenditures than budgeted under:

(a) Positions ($185,300 or 2.6 per cent) for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, owing to a lower actual vacancy rate of 0 per cent for international staff compared with the budgeted rate of 5 per cent;

(b) Facilities and infrastructure ($169,300 or 7.3 per cent), attributable to: (i) satellite imagery being reflected under facilities and infrastructure instead of communications (see para. 6 (d) above); and (ii) additional requirements for security installations resulting from a security risk assessment conducted by the Department of Safety and Security at the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015).

Proposed resources for 2017

8. The proposed resources for 2017 amount to $34,881,600, representing an increase of $1,224,500 (3.6 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016. The overall increase reflects the net effect of increased requirements for four missions and lower requirements for seven missions as compared with 2016, and unchanged requirements for one mission. A summary of the significant variances between the approved resources for 2016 and the proposed resources for 2017 is provided in table 6 of the Secretary-General's main report (A/71/365).

9. Increased resources are proposed for the following missions in 2017:

(a) For the Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,136,800, reflecting an increase of $845,600 (65.5 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($1,291,200), attributable to lower projected vacancy rates for international staff. The increase is offset in part by the removal of the one-time provision for communications equipment and laptops, approved in 2016;

(b) For the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $9,531,200, reflecting an increase of $807,500 (9.3 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($8,723,700). The increase is related mainly to the proposed establishment of 1 position of Senior Legal Officer (P-5) ($519,400), and additional requirements under consultants ($261,000) related to the development of a comprehensive international framework and campaign on counter-narratives;

(c) For the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015), the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $6,729,300, reflecting an increase of $423,500 (6.7 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($6,305,800). The increase is attributable to lower projected vacancy rates for international staff, and would be offset in part by lower average fees of the experts related to changes in the composition of the Monitoring Team;

(d) For the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,101,600, reflecting an increase of $21,500 (2.0 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($1,080,100), mainly under international staff costs owing to a higher actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents.

10. The above increases would be offset in part by lower requirements for the following missions:

(a) For the Panel of Experts on Yemen, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,685,400, reflecting a decrease of $331,900 (11.0 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($3,017,300), under: (i) ground transportation, attributable to the removal of the one-time provision made in 2016 for the acquisition of two armoured vehicles; and (ii) international staff costs, owing to the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents;

(b) For the Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,875,700, reflecting a decrease of $267,400 (8.5 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($3,143,100), owing to: (i) the projected average monthly vacancy of one and a half person-months for five experts who have completed the maximum service of five years for experts appointed to serve on the groups and panels established by the Security Council (see ST/AI/2013/4, para. 1.2); and (ii) a decrease in travel requirements for experts and staff owing to a more extensive use of videoconferencing;

(c) For the Panel of Experts on South Sudan, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,319,300, reflecting a decrease of $109,100 (7.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($1,428,400), attributable mainly to: (i) lower average fees of the experts related to changes in the composition of the Panel; and (ii) lower travel requirements, in line with the Panel's focus on investigations in the region;

(d) For the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,524,400, reflecting a decrease of $75,300 (2.9 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($2,599,700), owing mainly to lower average fees of the experts related to changes in the composition of the Panel;

(e) For the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $1,231,300, reflecting a decrease of $38,900 (3.1 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($1,270,200), mainly under international staff costs attributable to the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents;

(f) For the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the proposed resources for 2017 amount to $2,247,200, reflecting a decrease of $18,500 (0.8 per

cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016 ($2,265,700), mainly under international staff costs attributable to the lower actual average step in grade and dependency status of current incumbents.

11. The resources proposed for the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic would remain unchanged at $1,172,000.

12. A total amount of $15,357,600 is proposed under international staff for 2017, reflecting an increase of $1,675,800 (12.2 per cent) over the appropriation of $13,681,800 for 2016. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed resources reflected the combined effect of higher requirements for six missions ($1,865,300), lower requirements for five missions ($189,500) and unchanged requirements for one mission. The increase is attributable mostly to higher requirements for: (a) the Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) ($845,900), owing to the application of a 0 per cent vacancy rate in 2017 compared with vacancy rates of 40 and 50 per cent approved for Professional and General Service positions in 2016, respectively (see para. 15 below); and (b) the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate ($519,400), related mainly to the proposed establishment of one new position of Senior Legal Officer (P-5) (see paras. 17-20 below).

A. Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

13. Table 3 below presents the positions approved for 2016, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2016 and the proposed staffing requirements for 2017 for the 12 missions covered in the report of the Secretary-General on thematic cluster II (A/71/365/Add.2).

Table 3
Summary of staffing requirements

	Approved for 2016	Discontinuation of 2017 requirements	Requirements for 2017	Temporary positions	Conversions	Net change
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	7 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 5 LL)	2 (1 GS (OL), 1 LL)	7 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 5 LL)			
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 P-3	1 P-3	1 P-3			
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	1 P-3		1 P-3			
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4 (2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	1 P-3	4 (2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))			
Panel of Experts on Libya	2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))		2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))			
Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic	2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))		2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))			
Panel of Experts on Yemen	8 (1 P-3, 5 FS, 2 LL)	2 FS	8 (1 P-3, 5 FS, 2 LL)			
Panel of Experts on South Sudan	3 (1 P-3, 2 GS (OL))		3 (1 P-3, 2 GS (OL))			
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; and the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009)	21 (1 P-5, 5 P-4, 6 P-3, 9 GS (OL))	6 (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 GS (OL))	21 (1 P-5, 5 P-4, 6 P-3, 9 GS (OL))			
Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)	11 (1 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 GS (OL))	10 (1 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	11 (1 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 GS (OL))			
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	5 (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))		5 (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))			
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	43 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 13 P-4, 6 P-3, 3 P-2, 8 GS (OL))	2 (1 P-5, 1 GS (OL))	44 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 10 P-5, 13 P-4, 6 P-3, 3 P-2, 8 GS (OL))	1 P-5		

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level.

Vacancy rates

14. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the actual vacancy rates for all positions under the thematic cluster II, special political missions, as at 31 August 2016, which is contained in the annex to the present report. Upon enquiry, as to the reason for the application of a rate of 0 per cent for all missions in 2017, the Advisory Committee was informed that this was attributable to the low number of positions in most missions.

15. As regards the Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which has a total of 11 approved international positions, the data provided show that: (a) the vacancy rate as at 31 August 2016 was 82 per cent; (b) the actual average vacancy rate for the period from 1 January to 31 August 2016 was 88 per cent; and (c) that an actual vacancy rate of 58 per cent was projected for 2016. **In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee considers the application of a vacancy rate of 0 per cent in 2017 for this mission to be unrealistic, and recommends that the 2017 requirements for the mission be estimated on the basis of a vacancy rate of 30 per cent. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

16. The Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015), with a total of 21 approved international positions in 2016, also shows a high level of vacancies, with a vacancy rate of 19 per cent as at 31 August 2016 and a projected average vacancy rate of 22 per cent for 2016. **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee recommends the application of a vacancy rate of 10 per cent in 2017 instead of the proposed 0 per cent. Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

17. One position of Senior Legal Officer (P-5) is proposed to be created in 2017 for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. Information on the functions of the position is provided in paragraphs 195 to 199 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.2). It is indicated, among other things, that the proposed additional Senior Legal Officer (P-5) would coordinate and take the lead in mainstreaming gender throughout the activities of the Executive Directorate, as a cross-cutting issue.

18. The Advisory Committee requested further justification for the requirement of a Senior Legal Officer position for a gender mainstreaming function, and the reasons for proposing the position at the P-5 level. The Committee was informed that the Senior Legal Officer will require strong legal skills and extensive knowledge of international law, in particular laws governing the interpretation and application of Security Council resolutions on gender. The Committee was also informed that the position was proposed at the P-5 level since the Senior Legal Officer would be required, among other things, to: direct and guide the activities of research officers; assist the directors with the integration process; interact effectively with senior officials of, among others, the Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Member States and numerous international partners; conduct country assessment visits; make recommendations to Member States; facilitate the delivery of technical assistance; chair the newly established Working Group on

Gender of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; and be responsible for conducting formal outreach with Member States and external partners at a senior level. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Office of Human Resources Management had finalized its review of the classification of the proposed position of Senior Legal Officer at the P-5 level. The Committee trusts that the need for adequate experience in gender issues will be highlighted.

19. The Advisory Committee was further informed that to date, there had been no request for the creation of a generic job profile for a Gender Affairs Officer, and that an organization-wide need for such a stand-alone function had not been identified. Instead, according to the Secretary-General, functions with gender-related work and responsibilities had been incorporated into the terms of reference for certain generic job profiles, including, for instance, Social Affairs Officer, Legal Officer, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Programme Officer and Political Officer. In this regard, the Committee recalls that the statute of the International Civil Service Commission provides that the Commission shall establish job classification standards for all categories of staff in fields of work common to several of the organizations.

20. **The Advisory Committee trusts that adequate focus will be given to the requirement for experience in gender-related issues in filling the proposed position of Senior Legal Officer (P-5), if approved by the General Assembly.**

21. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 16 above and taking into account its comments above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for the 12 missions under thematic cluster II.**

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

22. The proposed resources for operational costs for the 12 special political missions under thematic cluster II in 2017 amount to $19,230,300, reflecting a decrease of $455,000 (2.3 per cent) compared with the appropriation of $19,685,300 for 2016. Taking into account the projected underexpenditure at the end of 2016, estimated at $683,500 (3.5 per cent) over the appropriation for 2016 ($19,685,300), the additional resources for operational costs sought by the Secretary-General amount to $18,546,800.

23. The Advisory Committee was informed that the key variances in the operational costs between the approved resources for 2016 and the proposed requirements for 2017 were related mainly to lower requirements under:

(a) Experts ($399,600 or 3 per cent) attributable to: (i) lower average fees of experts resulting from changes in the composition of the Panels of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libya and South Sudan; (ii) changes in travel destination of the experts of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan in line with the focus of the Panel on investigations in the region; and (iii) a projected average vacancy of one and a half months for five experts as well as a higher use of videoconferencing at the Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004);

(b) Ground transportation ($250,000 or 48.3 per cent) related to the removal of the one-time provision in 2016 for the acquisition of two armoured vehicles for the Panel of Experts on Yemen;

(c) Communications ($122,100 or 26.3 per cent), owing to: (i) electronic subscriptions being reflected under information technology; and (ii) satellite imagery being reflected under facilities and infrastructure.

24. The reduced requirements would be offset in part by increased requirements under:

(a) Consultants ($261,000 or 100 per cent) for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for the development of a comprehensive international framework and campaign on counter-narratives (see para. 9 (b) above);

(b) Facilities and infrastructure ($98,700 or 4.3 per cent), owing mainly to the reflection of the provision for satellite imagery, previously budgeted under communications;

(c) Information technology ($82,600 or 10.7 per cent) related to: (i) the reflection of the electronic subscriptions, previously budgeted under communications; (ii) an increase in the actual costs of the analytical software tool used; and (iii) for the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015), additional requirements related to the annual license fee of the enhanced data model, as well as the reflection of contractual services previously budgeted under other miscellaneous services.

25. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational resources, subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 16 above.**

26. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed requirements for the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) included a provision of $437,400 under information technology, of which a total amount of $272,000 was related to the development of the enhanced data model referred to in paragraph 112 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/365/Add.2). The proposed amount would cover costs for software development services ($240,000) over a nine-month period, annual licence fees ($2,000) and the annual hosting of servers and data storage ($30,000).

27. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the project would be developed in three phases, with a soft launch of the enhanced data model planned by the end of June 2017. Further activities are foreseen over a three-month period following the soft launch and include: (a) verification that all the aspects of the system are functioning as intended; (b) collection of feedback from end users on the functioning, reliability, performance and quality of reports produced by the new system; (c) consideration of the feedback received from end users and evaluation of possible steps to improve the overall performance of the new system; and (d) addressing the issues reported by the end users.

28. With regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), upon request for an update on the activities of the procurement channel (see A/71/365/Add.2, para. 142), the Advisory Committee was informed that while it had been estimated that 180 proposals would be submitted, only one nuclear-related

proposal had been submitted to the Security Council as at 29 September 2016. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the proposed resources under information technology ($47,500) would provide, among other things, for the development of a database for complex and large volumes of data managed by the Secretariat for the procurement channel, as each proposal received by the Security Council needed to be tracked with a unique identification number from submission to notification of the Council's decision. The Committee was further informed that the database system could not be implemented until there were enough elements to determine the actual needs of the Council. Nevertheless, the need for a secure database to receive, store and track nuclear-related proposals throughout the different stages of the procurement channel process was still being discussed at the expert level in the Security Council and in the Joint Commission established to monitor the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear issue.

III. Conclusion and recommendation

29. The Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for the 31 special political missions for 2017, which require action to be taken by the General Assembly, are set out in paragraph 122 of his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/71/365).

30. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in the paragraphs above, as well as the comments and recommendations contained in its main report (A/71/595), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2017 for the 12 special political missions under thematic cluster II.**

Annex

Vacancy rates for all positions under thematic cluster II

Details	Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Panel of Experts on the Sudan	Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Panel of Experts on Libya	Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic	Panel of Experts on Yemen	Panel of Experts on South Sudan	Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team	Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)	Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
International staff												
Approved number of positions for 2016	2	1	1	4	2	2	6	3	21	11	5	33
Budgeted vacancy rate for 2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	new	0 37	40	0	5
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	19	0	13	3	0	0	17	25	33	88	0	3
Actual vacancy rate as at 31 August 2016	50	0	0	25	0	0	17	0	19	82	0	0
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	13	0	8	2	0	0	11	17	22	58	0	3
Proposed number of positions for 2017	2	1	1	4	2	2	6	3	21	11	5	33
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	new	0 50
National staff (Local level)												
Approved number of positions for 2016	5						2					
Budgeted vacancy rate for 2016	0						0					
Actual average vacancy rate for the period from January to August 2016	10						0					
Actual vacancy rate as at 31 August 2016	20						0					
Projected average vacancy rate for 2016 (January to December)	7						0					

Mission	Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Panel of Experts on the Sudan	Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Panel of Experts on Libya	Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic	Panel of Experts on Yemen	Panel of Experts on South Sudan	Analytical support and sanctions monitoring team	Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)	Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
Proposed number of positions for 2017	5						2					
Proposed vacancy rate for 2017	0						0					